

Case Number:	CM14-0015703		
Date Assigned:	03/03/2014	Date of Injury:	01/04/2007
Decision Date:	06/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/07/2014

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

The patient is a 5/8 y/o male, DOI 1/04/07. He has sustained significant injuries to left hip, low back and lower extremities. He has developed a chronic pain syndrome with neuropathic components. The current mainstay of treatment is analgesic medications. Lyrica has been prescribed at 300mg/day (100mg TID) for at least the last year.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

LYRICA 100MG #90: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation MTUS: CHRONIC PAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES, ANTI-EPILEPSY DRUGS (AEDs), PREGABALIN,

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation MTUS: CHRONIC PAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES, PREGABALIN(LYRICA), PAGE 19

Decision rationale: The latest Utilization Review(UR) report available for review recommended a change in the Lyrica dosing from 300mg.per day to 200mg. per day. The rationale given was that a prior UR (6/28/13) has stated that there was no improvement in pain levels when the mediation was increased from 200mg. to 300mg. per day. This prior UR report is not available

for IMR review and there are no treatment narratives are reviewed that document this. All of the treatment records reviewed document a 300mg/day dose which is well tolerated and is with in standard prescribing recommendations. Based on what is available for review, a reversal of the prior UR is recommended. The 300mg/day dosing appears medically necessary.