

Case Number:	CM14-0017279		
Date Assigned:	04/14/2014	Date of Injury:	03/13/1994
Decision Date:	05/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/11/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 73 year-old male with a 3/13/1994 industrial injury claim. The internal medicine physician, [REDACTED] has diagnosed him failed back syndrome, also history of liver cancer that was a compensable consequence to the hepatitis C, gout; hypertension; constipation; GERD, and reports additional orthopedic diagnoses deferred to [REDACTED] and chronic pain issues deferred to [REDACTED]. On 1/30/14 an occupational medicine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

30 ALLOPURINOL 300MG: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Management Of Chronic Gout In Adults.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation FDA Labeled Indications: Indications And Usage For Allopurinol This Is Not An Innocuous Drug. It Is Not Recommended For The Treatment Of Asymptomatic Hyperuricemia.

Decision rationale: The patient presents with orthopedic and internal injuries. The Internal medicine specialist notes the patient has gout and is using Allopurinol. The patient was also

reported to have industrially-related hepatitis C from a blood transfusion after this 1994 neck surgery, and more recently liver cancer as a compensable consequence of the hepatitis C. UR states Allopurinol was denied because although it is recommended for Gout, it was contraindicated for chronic hepatitis. The labeled indication for Allowpurinol states it is for symptomatic hyperuricemia, and also indicated for patients on cancer therapy that increases serum uric acid levels. The Allopurinol label does not list hepatitis as a contraindication, stating only "Patients who have developed a severe reaction to Allopurinol should not be restarted on the drug." The patient's progress is being monitored the use of Allopurinol is in accordance with the labeled indication; therefore the request is medically necessary and appropriate.