

Case Number:	CM14-0111136		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	10/14/2010
Decision Date:	10/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/16/2014

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 and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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 records presented for review indicate that this 47 year old gentleman was reportedly injured on October 14, 2010. The mechanism of injury is undisclosed. The most recent progress note, dated July 7, 2014, indicates that the injured employee tried to commit suicide by taking all of his Norco pills. A medication change was requested. The physical examination demonstrated decreased range of motion of the lumbar spine. Diagnostic imaging studies were not reviewed during this visit. Previous treatment is unknown. A request was made for Flexeril, Norco, and Valium and was non-certified in the preauthorization process on June 19, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flexeril 10 MG #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle Relaxants.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle relaxants (for pain) Page(s): 63-66. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: XXXXXXXXXX, Et Al. Suicide, Medscape, Updated September 10, 2014

Decision rationale: According to the progress note dated July 7, 2014, the injured employee tried to commit suicide by taking medications. According to [REDACTED], if the patient is potentially suicidal, remove anything that the patient may use to hurt or kill him or herself. Remove sharp or potentially dangerous objects. Ask the patient for any weapon, such as knives or pills, and secure them away from the patient. Considering this, this request for Flexeril is not medically necessary at this time.

Norco 10/325 MG #120: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 74-78, 88, 91. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: [REDACTED], Et Al. Suicide, Medscape, Updated September 10, 2014

Decision rationale: According to the progress note dated July 7, 2014, the injured employee took all his Norco in a suicide attempt. According to [REDACTED] if the patient is potentially suicidal, remove anything that the patient may use to hurt or kill him or herself. Remove sharp or potentially dangerous objects. Ask the patient for any weapon, such as knives or pills, and secure them away from the patient. Considering this, the recent request for Norco is not medically necessary.

Valium 10 MG #90: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Benzodiazepines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 24. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: [REDACTED], Et Al. Suicide, Medscape, Updated September 10, 2014.

Decision rationale: According to the progress note dated July 7, 2014, the injured employee tried to commit suicide by taking all of his medications. According to [REDACTED], if the patient is potentially suicidal, remove anything that the patient may use to hurt or kill him or herself. Remove sharp or potentially dangerous objects. Ask the patient for any weapon, such as knives or pills, and secure them away from the patient. Considering this, the request for Valium is not medically necessary at this time.