

Case Number:	CM14-0118331		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	07/15/1996
Decision Date:	09/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/28/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 51-year-old male with a 7/15/96 date of injury. At the time (7/1/14) of request for authorization for Nucynta tab 100mg Quantity 30 with 120 refills, there is documentation of subjective (lower back pain) and objective (limited range of motion of cervical spine) findings, current diagnoses (cervical, thoracic, and lumbar disc disease), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Oxycodone and vicodine since at least 11/5/13)). There is no documentation that prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects; and development of intolerable adverse effects with first line opioids.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Nucynta tab 100mg Quantity 30 with 120 refills: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 74-80. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Tapentadol (Nucynta).

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines necessitate documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Opioids. ODG identifies documentation of Nucynta used as a second line therapy for patients who develop intolerable adverse effects with first line opioids, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Nucynta. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical, thoracic, and lumbar disc disease. In addition, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Oxycodone and vicodine, there is documentation of Nucynta used as a second line therapy. However, there is no documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. In addition, despite documentation of Nucynta used as a second line therapy, there is no documentation of intolerable adverse effects with first line opioids. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Nucynta tab 100mg Quantity 30 with 120 refills is not medically necessary.