

Case Number:	CM14-0134216		
Date Assigned:	08/25/2014	Date of Injury:	11/23/2007
Decision Date:	10/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/19/2014

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 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:

This is a female patient with the date of injury of November 23, 2007. A Utilization Review was performed on July 28, 2014 and recommended non-certification of qualitative urine drug screen. A Progress Report dated June 2, 2014 identifies Subjective Complaints of pain throughout her neck and left brachial region. Objective Findings identify gait is restricted and cane assisted. Substantial left scalene tenderness, left brachial plexus Tinel, positive left costoclavicular abduction, and left upper extremity weakness. There is moderate left piriformis tenderness and positive left FAIR test. Diagnostic Impressions identify status post closed head trauma with persistent reports of headache, tinnitus, and vertigo. Left thoracic outlet syndrome associated with left shoulder adhesive capsulitis, upper extremity entrapment, and associated left piriformis findings, fibromyalgia, hypertension, status post left ankle arthroscopy 2009 for osteochondral lesion, sleep disorder, and L4-5, L5-S1 discopathy. Treatment Plan identifies qualitative urine drug test administered and quantitative test ordered. There is note of a urine drug test having been performed on February 5, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Qualitative Urine Drug Screen: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines; regarding Urine Drug Sc. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines: Pain Chapter, Urine drug testing (UDT)

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 76-79 and 99 of 127. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Chronic Pain Chapter Urine Drug Testing

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for a qualitative urine drug screen, CA MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state the drug testing is recommended as an option. Guidelines go on to recommend monitoring for the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or nonadherent) drug related behaviors. ODG recommends urine drug testing on a yearly basis for low risk patients, 2-3 times a year for moderate risk patients, and possibly once per month for high risk patients. Within the documentation available for review, it appears that the provider has recently performed a toxicology test. The provider notes that the patient is taking pain medication, but there is no documentation of current risk stratification to identify the medical necessity of drug screening at the proposed frequency. There is no statement indicating why this patient would be considered to be high risk for opiate misuse, abuse, or diversion. As such, the currently requested qualitative urine drug screen is not medically necessary.