

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0134574		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/27/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/23/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/23/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/25/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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 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 38-year-old female with a 11/23/07 date of injury. At the time (7/24/14) of the Decision for Butrans patch 5mcg one patch q week for weaning to discontinue, with a reduction of med by 10%-20% per week over a weaning period of 2-3 months or shorter if possible, there is documentation of subjective (neck pain) and objective (restricted gait, left scalene tenderness, positive left Fair test, and positive left costoclavicular abduction weakness) findings, current diagnoses (left thoracic outlet syndrome, fibromyalgia, and sleep disorder), and treatment to date (medications (including Butrans patch, Ambine, and Tramadol) that are helpful). There is no documentation of opiate addiction or chronic pain (after detoxification with a history of opiate addiction). In addition, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Butrans patch use to date.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**BUTRANS PATCH 5MCG ONE PATCH Q WEEK FOR WEANING TO DISCONTINUE, WITH A REDUCTION OF MED BY 10%-20% PER WEEK OVER A WEANING PERIOD OF 2-3 MONTHS OR SHORTER IF POSSIBLE:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Buprenorphine Page(s): 26-27. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

**Decision rationale:** MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of opiate addiction or chronic pain (after detoxification in patients who have a history of opiate addiction), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Buprenorphine. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of left thoracic outlet syndrome, fibromyalgia, and sleep disorder. In addition, there is documentation of ongoing treatment with Butrans patch and opioids. However, there is no documentation of opiate addiction or chronic pain (after detoxification with a history of opiate addiction). In addition, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Butrans patch use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Butrans patch 5mcg one patch q week for weaning to discontinue, with a reduction of med by 10%-20% per week over a weaning period of 2-3 months or shorter if possible is not medically necessary.