

Case Number:	CM14-0158677		
Date Assigned:	10/02/2014	Date of Injury:	02/17/2000
Decision Date:	10/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/26/2014

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 Texas. 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:

Medical records reflect the claimant is a 56 year old male who sustained a work injury on 2-17-00. Office visit on 8-18-14 notes the claimant has a diagnosis of myofascial pain syndrome, lumbar spondylosis, lumbar or thoracic radiculopathy, and post laminectomy syndrome. The claimant reports low back pain in lower leg pain rated as 5/10 with intermittent numbness a tinging associated with severe muscle spasms. On exam, the claimant has an antalgic gait with tenderness to palpation with circumscribed trigger points in the paravertebral muscle and twitch response with referred pain. The claimant has tenderness to palpation over the bilateral lower facet joints.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Soma 350mg #90: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle Relaxants Page(s): 65.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines muscle relaxants Page(s): 63-67. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain chapter - SOMA

Decision rationale: Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines as well as ODG does not support the long term use of muscle relaxants. There are no extenuating circumstances to support the long term use of this medication in this case, particularly Soma that has high addictive properties. Therefore, the medical necessity of this request is not established.