

Case Number:	CM14-0164652		
Date Assigned:	10/09/2014	Date of Injury:	05/14/1993
Decision Date:	11/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/06/2014

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 Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in Illinois. 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 injured worker is a 54 year old female with a date of injury on 5/14/93. She has been diagnosed with major depressive disorder and psychological factors with a mechanism of stress injury. Treatment plan includes a prescription for Lamotrigine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lamotrigine 25mg QTY: 42: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antiepilepsy drugs (AEDs), Page(s): 16-20.

Decision rationale: Lamotrigine has been shown to be effective for mood stabilization in injured workers with bipolar disorder. It is used as a maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder to delay the time to occurrence of mood episodes (depression, mania, hypomania, mixed episodes) in adults (18 years of age) treated for acute mood episodes with standard therapy. The target dose is at 200 mg per day. Per the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS), Lamotrigine has been proven to be moderately effective for the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and central post-stroke pain. Due to side-effects and slow

titration period, Lamotrigine is not generally recommended as a first-line treatment for neuropathic pain. There is no medical documentation to support the request for this medication; therefore, the request is not medically necessary.