

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0167685		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/15/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/11/1988
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/18/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/22/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/10/2014

### 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 Preventive Medicine 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 75-year-old male with a 10/11/88 date of injury. At the time (9/22/14) of the Decision for Urine toxicology between 8/11/2014 and 12/16/2014, there is documentation of subjective (pain) and objective (not specified), current diagnoses (cervical spine stenosis, lumbar spine annular tear, referred back pain, and shoulder and ankle issues), and treatment to date has included medications and ongoing treatment with opioids. Medical reports identify a 6/30/14 certification for urine drug screen. In addition, medical reports identify that the patient has been labeled as high risk. There is no documentation of abuse, addiction, or poor pain control to label the patient at high risk and there is no (clear) documentation of active substance abuse disorders.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Urine toxicology between 8/11/2014 and 12/16/2014:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Urine Drug Screens; Criteria for Use of Urine Drug Testing.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines On-Going Management Page(s): 78.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of abuse, addiction, or poor pain control in patient under on-going opioid treatment, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Urine Drug Screen. ODG (Official Disability Guidelines) supports urine drug testing within six months of initiation of opioid therapy and on a yearly basis thereafter for patients at "low risk" of addiction, 2 to 3 times a year for patients at "moderate risk" of addiction & misuse, and testing as often as once per month for patients at "high risk" of adverse outcomes (individuals with active substance abuse disorders). Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical spine stenosis, lumbar spine annular tear, referred back pain, and shoulder and ankle issues. In addition, there is documentation of ongoing treatment with opioids and a 6/30/14 certification for urine drug screen. However, despite documentation of ongoing treatment with opioids, there is no documentation of abuse, addiction, or poor pain control. In addition, despite documentation of a patient at high risk, there is no (clear) documentation of active substance abuse disorders. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Urine toxicology between 8/11/2014 and 12/16/2014 is not medically necessary.