

Case Number:	CM14-0177831		
Date Assigned:	10/31/2014	Date of Injury:	11/11/2011
Decision Date:	12/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/27/2014

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 Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 claimant is a 40 yo female who sustained an industrial injury on 11/11/11. The mechanism of injury was due to a slip and fall. Her diagnoses include right wrist pain, and depression and anxiety due to chronic pain. She continues to complain of right wrist pain and ongoing depression. On exam there is pain with range of motion of the right wrist. Treatment has included medical therapy, activity modification, cast, wrist splint, shoulder sling, home exercise program, physical therapy, acupuncture, and psychotherapy. The treating provider has requested Ultracet 37.5 # 180.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ultracet 37.5 mg # 180: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 93, 94-96.

Decision rationale: The review of the medical documentation indicates that the requested medication, Ultracet is not medically necessary and indicated for the treatment of the claimant's chronic pain condition. Per California MTUS, Ultracet is a synthetic opioid which affects the

central nervous system and is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe pain. The treatment of chronic pain with any opioid agent requires review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Pain assessment should include current pain: last reported pain over the period since last assessment; average pain; intensity of pain after taking the opioid, and the duration of pain relief. Per the medical documentation there has been no documentation of the medication's pain relief effectiveness and no clear documentation that she has responded to ongoing opioid therapy. According to the California MTUS Guidelines there has to be certain criteria followed including an ongoing review and documentation of pain relief and functional status. This does not appear to have occurred with this patient. In addition, the documentation provided is lacking of California MTUS Opioid compliance guidelines including risk assessment profile, attempts at weaning/tapering, updated urine drug screen, updated efficacy, and an updated signed patient contract between the provider and the claimant. The patient may require a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine the best approach to treatment of his chronic pain syndrome. The requested treatment is not medically necessary.