

Case Number:	CM14-0184939		
Date Assigned:	11/12/2014	Date of Injury:	02/27/2013
Decision Date:	12/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/06/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain 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:

The injured worker is a 62 year-old female with a date of injury of 2/27/2013. The industrially related diagnoses are cervical radiculopathy, and left carpal tunnel syndrome. The patient's prior treatments include topical and oral non-narcotic medications, physical therapy, TENS unit, and carpal tunnel brace. An electromyogram dated on 11/22/2013 showed left median nerve neuropathy consistent with left mild carpal tunnel syndrome. The disputed issue is genetic metabolism test and genetic opioid risk test. A utilization review dated 10/14/2014 has non-certified these requests. The stated rationale for denial was according the guidelines, cytochrome P450 testing is not recommended. Although there is promising research in this area, there is no high-grade evidence documented in peer-reviewed literature to support this as medically necessary testing. Additional studies are required to determine the efficacy and functional role in clinical testing. Therefore, both genetic metabolism test and genetic opioid risk tests were not supported and not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Genetic metabolism test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14996240

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines California Code of Regulations Section 9792.21(c) Page(s): 2. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, Cytokine DNA Testing, Genetic testing for Potential Opioid Abuse

Decision rationale: Section 9792.21(c) of the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (page 2 of the Code of Regulations) states that: "Treatment shall not be denied on the sole basis that the condition or injury is not addressed by the MTUS. In this situation, the claims administrator shall authorize treatment if such treatment is in accordance with other scientifically and evidence-based, peer-reviewed, medical treatment guidelines that are nationally recognized by the medical community, in accordance with subdivisions (b) and (c) of section 9792.25, and pursuant to the Utilization Review Standards found in section 9792.6 through section 9792.10." In the case of genetic metabolism testing, there are no evidenced based guidelines that support the use of this in opioid or medication management. The California MTUS, ACOEM, and Official Disability Guidelines do not have provisions for this. As such, this request is not medically necessary.

Genetic opioid risk test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pain

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, Cytokine DNA Testing, Genetic testing for Potential Opioid Abuse

Decision rationale: Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, genetic testing for potential opioid abuse, states "Not recommended. While there appears to be a strong genetic component to addictive behavior, current research is experimental in terms of testing for this. Studies are inconsistent, with inadequate statistics and large phenotype range. Different studies use different criteria for definition of controls. More work is needed to verify the role of variants suggested to be associated with addiction and for clearer understanding of their role in different populations. (Levrán, 2012) Translating pharmacogenetics to clinical practice has been particularly challenging in the context of pain, due to the complexity of this multifaceted phenotype and the overall subjective nature of pain perception and response to analgesia. Overall, numerous genes involved with the pharmacokinetics and dynamics of opioids response are candidate genes in the context of opioid analgesia. Overall, the level of evidence linking genetic variability to opioid response is strong; however, there has been no randomized clinical trial on the benefits of genetic testing prior to oxycodone therapy. On the other hand, predicting the analgesic response to morphine based on pharmacogenetic testing is more complex; though there was hope that simple genetic testing would allow tailoring morphine doses to provide optimal analgesia, this is unlikely to occur. A variety of polymorphisms clearly influence pain perception and behavior in response to pain. However, the response to analgesics also differs depending on the pain modality and the potential for repeated noxious stimuli, the opioid prescribed, and even its route of administration. (Vuilleumier, 2012) See also Cytokine DNA testing." Regarding a request for genetic opioid risk test, California MTUS and ACOEM do not

contain criteria for this request. Official Disability Guidelines states that cytokine DNA testing is not recommended. Additionally, they state that genetic testing for potential opioid abuse is not recommended. As such, the currently requested genetic opioid risk test is not medically necessary.