

Case Number:	CM14-0185026		
Date Assigned:	11/12/2014	Date of Injury:	02/13/2006
Decision Date:	12/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/29/2014
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 Occupational 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:

This patient is a 50 years /old male who has developed chronic spinal pain and neuropathy subsequent to an injury dated 2/13/06. He has been treated with cervical surgery. He is reported to have bilateral lower extremity pain associated with functional nerve loss and neuropathic pain. He has been treated with Lyrica, Dilaudid and Cymbalta.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One prescription of Cymbalta 60 mg # 60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antidepressants Page(s): 15. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.rxlist.com/cymbalta-drug/indications-dosage.htm>

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines do not support dosing this drug above 60mg. per day for the treatment of pain. Additionally, current professional prescribing recommendations are very clear that there are no additional benefits for pain when increasing the dose above 60mg. per day. This appears to be well studied and a strong recommendation. For treating depression a higher dose is discouraged, but allowed, however, this does not apply when it is being utilized for pain

management. There are no unusual circumstances to justify an exception to Guidelines. The Cymbalta 60mg BID #60 is not medically necessary.