

Case Number:	CM14-0185771		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2014	Date of Injury:	01/17/2012
Decision Date:	12/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/07/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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 patient is a 52-year-old man who sustained a work-related injury on July 17, 2012. Subsequently, the patient developed chronic shoulder and back pain. The patient was treated with the 5 back surgeries, shoulder surgery and spinal cord stimulator as well as pain medications. According to a progress report dated on October 23, 2014, the patient continued to have chronic pain syndrome with pain severity is rated 8/10. The patient was receiving oxycodone Roxicodone and Gralise. The patient physical examination demonstrated lumbar tenderness with reduced range of motion. The patient was diagnosed with chronic low back pain, failed back surgery, lumbar radiculopathy and independence. The provider requested authorization to continue Roxicodone.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Roxicodone 30mg #180: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Oxycodone immediate release (OxyIR capsule, Roxicodone tablets; ge.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 75-81.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS guidelines, ongoing use of opioids should follow specific rules:(a) Prescriptions from a single practitioner taken as directed, and all prescriptions from a single pharmacy.(b) The lowest possible dose should be prescribed to improve pain and function.(c) Office: Ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Pain assessment should include: current pain; the least reported pain over the period since last assessment; average pain; intensity of pain after taking the opioid; how long it takes for pain relief; and how long pain relief lasts. Satisfactory response to treatment may be indicated by the patient's decreased pain, increased level of function, or improved quality of life. Information from family members or other caregivers should be considered in determining the patient's response to treatment. The 4 A's for Ongoing Monitoring: Four domains have been proposed as most relevant for ongoing monitoring of chronic pain patients on opioids: pain relief, side effects, physical and psychosocial functioning, and the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or non-adherent) drug-related behaviors. These domains have been summarized as the "4 A's" (analgesia, activities of daily living, adverse side effects, and aberrant drug taking behaviors). The monitoring of these outcomes over time should affect therapeutic decisions and provide a framework. Based on the medical records, the patient has used high dose opioid analgesics for long time without documentation of pain and functional improvement. There is no documentation of compliance or the patient with his medications. There is no justification for the use of 2 opioids. Based on these findings, the prescription of Roxycodone 30mg #180 is not medically necessary.