

Case Number:	CM14-0187491		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2014	Date of Injury:	01/09/1998
Decision Date:	12/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/07/2014

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 Family 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:

Patient had a date of injury on 1/9/1998. Mechanism of injury is not provided in the medical records. Patient has Norco and Dilaudid as medication. Diagnosis include: Lumbago, cervical DDD, lumbar DDD, cervical facet arthropathy, lumbar facet arthropathy and RSD upper limb.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) 4mg QTY: 120 (30 day supply) no refills, for upper extremity:
Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Goodman and Gilman's The pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, 12th ed. and ODG workers compensation drug formulary

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 74-86.

Decision rationale: Based of guidelines the use of opioids should be continued if there is a functional improvement. Short course therapy is recommended. Based on the medical records the patient continues to have pain with Dilaudid. Thus it is not medically necessary. Patient is also on Norco and Dilaudid which is not recommended based on guidelines.

