

Case Number:	CM14-0020336		
Date Assigned:	04/25/2014	Date of Injury:	03/06/2006
Decision Date:	11/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/28/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/18/2014

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 58-year-old female with an original date of injury of March 6, 2006. The injured worker has chronic pain related to forearm pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, and complex regional pain syndrome. The injured worker has a medication regimen consisting of the Neurontin, Cymbalta, oxycodone, and Senokot on an as needed basis. The disputed request is for a prescription for Senokot.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Senokot S #30 with 2 refills: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioid, and Constipation Section Page(s): 75-80.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Senokot, the CPMTG recommends the following: "Prophylactic treatment of constipation should be initiated." In the case of this injured worker, there is documentation of chronic pain in the patient is on narcotic pain medications. Even without documentation of constipation, it is reasonable to start a patient on a regimen of a laxative for prophylaxis. Therefore this request is medically necessary.

