

Case Number:	CM14-0020521		
Date Assigned:	04/25/2014	Date of Injury:	10/02/2002
Decision Date:	07/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/24/2014
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 Management and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 California MTUS Guidelines recommend the use of opioids for the on-going management of chronic low back pain. The ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects should be evident. In this case, there is a lack of evidence of an objective assessment of the employee's pain level, functional status, evaluation of risk for aberrant drug use behavior and side effects. Therefore, the request for Hydrocodone/APAP 10/325 mg # 120 is not medically necessary and appropriate.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

HYDROCODONE/APAP 10/325MG #120: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 91.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 74-95.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS Guidelines recommend the use of opioids for the on-going management of chronic low back pain. The ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects should be evident. In this case, there is a lack of evidence of an objective assessment of the employee's pain level,

functional status, evaluation of risk for aberrant drug use behavior and side effects. Therefore, the request for Hydrocodone/APAP 10/325 mg # 120 is not medically necessary and appropriate.