

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0025872		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/04/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	03/26/1997
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/01/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/14/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/28/2014

### 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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 65-year-old male with a 3/26/97 date of injury. At the time (2/12/14) of request for authorization for Celebrex for cervical and lumbar spine, there is documentation of subjective findings of low back pain and neck pain rated 8/10, flare of chronic pain and objective findings of cervical spine tightness in the bilateral levator and suboccipital groups, lumbar spine trigger points and myofascial restrictions in the bilateral gluteus medius and piriformis groups. The current diagnoses are cervical discogenic pain, lumbar discogenic pain, and chronic pain syndrome. The treatment to date includes intrathecal pain pump, physical therapy, trigger point injections, chiropractic, massage, psychotherapy, and medications including Celebrex since at least 8/13. The 1/15/14 medical report identifies that the patient has been non-compliant with his medications. There is no documentation of high-risk of GI complications with NSAIDs and functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services as a result of Celebrex use to date.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Celebrex for cervical and lumbar spine:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Anti-Inflammatory Medications, Effexor, Testosterone Replacement For Hypogonadism (Related To Opioids) Page(s): 22,16, 110-111.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Anti-inflammatory medications Page(s): 22.

**Decision rationale:** California MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of high-risk of GI complications with NSAIDs, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Celebrex. California MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical discogenic pain, lumbar discogenic pain, and chronic pain syndrome. However, there is no documentation of high-risk of GI complications with NSAIDs. In addition, given documentation of Celebrex use, since at least 8/13, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services as a result of Celebrex use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Celebrex for cervical and lumbar spine is not medically necessary.