

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0029612		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/09/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/06/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/30/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/17/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/21/2014

### 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 60-year-old female with a 10/6/03 date of injury. At the time (12/3/13) of request for authorization for Percocet 10/325mg, #120 with 2 refills, for the purpose of weaning to discontinue over a weaning period of 2-3 months, there is documentation of subjective (persistent headaches, low back pain, and ongoing neck pain) and objective (limited range of motion with significant tenderness in the cervical spine) findings, current diagnoses (cervical radiculopathy, occipital neuralgia, cervical fusion, myalgia/myositis, and chronic pain), and treatment to date (medications including Percocet). Medical report identifies that pain contract is on file. There is no documentation that continuous, around-the-clock analgesic is needed for an extended period of time 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 Percocet use to date.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**PERCOCET 10/325MG, #120 WITH 2 REFILLS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WEANING TO DISCONTINUE OVER A WEANING PERIOD OF 2-3 MONTHS:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation MTUS: WHEN TO CONTINUE OPIOIDS, CA DWC MTUS CHRONIC PAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES,

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids; Oxycodone Page(s): 74-80; 92. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

**Decision rationale:** The Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of moderate to severe pain when a continuous, around-the-clock analgesic is needed for an extended period of time, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Oxycodone. In addition, MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Oxycodone. 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 radiculopathy, occipital neuralgia, cervical fusion, myalgia/myositis, and chronic pain. In addition, there is documentation of moderate to severe pain and that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Furthermore, there is documentation of prescriptions for Percocet since at least 6/18/13. However, there is no documentation that continuous, around-the-clock analgesic is needed for an extended period of time. In addition, 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 Percocet use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Percocet 10/325mg, #120 with 2 refills, for the purpose of weaning to discontinue over a weaning period of 2-3 months is not medically necessary.