

Case Number:	CM14-0031326		
Date Assigned:	04/09/2014	Date of Injury:	06/07/2006
Decision Date:	05/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/30/2014

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 & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 patient is a 40-year-old female with date of injury of 06/07/2006. According to the report, the patient presents with ongoing neck pain radiating to the shoulder blades with associated headaches. The physical examination shows tenderness upon palpation throughout the bilateral trapezius. The motor examination is within normal limits. Radial pulses are palpable bilaterally.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CYMBALTA 60MG 1 BY MOUTH TWICE A DAY #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 13-14.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Medications For Chronic Pain.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines page 60 on medications for chronic pain states that relief of pain with the use of medications is generally temporary, and measures of the lasting benefit from this modality should include evaluating the effect of pain relief in relationship to improvements in function and increased activity. A record of pain and function with medication should be recorded. Despite the review of reports from 07/26/2013 to 11/04/2013, the treating

physician does not provide any documentation that Cymbalta is doing anything for the patient's pain or function. Recommendation is for denial.