

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0038015		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/25/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/08/1997
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/26/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/18/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/01/2014

### 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 Dentistry 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:

Records reviewed indicate that this is a 62-year-old female with date of injury 11/8/97. Patient has right knee pain. She is on methadone and oxycodone for pain and Amitiza for constipation. She is on other non opiates as well. The provider claims her opiates have caused her to have dry mouth so she has dental caries. Treating [REDACTED] progress report dated 12-31-13 states: " She also states that she has severe dental decay due to her medications, and chronic dry mouth. She has seen a dentist and told she will need to have extraction and implants placed as all of her teeth are decayed. I am requesting expert opinion, from someone not involved in current care, for dental caries, The patient has poor dentition. which has occurred over the course of her care, She has not been treated with a dentist in years. however dry mouth from opioid medications can cause dental caries.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Dental evaluation for dental caries from right knee opioid:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004), Chapter 7, page 127

**Decision rationale:** Based on the records reviewed, this IMR reviewer finds this request for Dental Evaluation to be medically necessary to address this patient's dental injury and any causation related to the industrial injury. This patient may benefit from additional expertise. Therefore the request is medically necessary.