

Case Number:	CM14-0042217		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	05/09/2002
Decision Date:	08/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/09/2014

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 Family Practice 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:

53 yr. old male claimant sustained a work injury on 5/9/02 involving the shoulders, low back and neck. He was diagnosed with cervicalgia, right shoulder impingement and post laminectomy syndrome of the cervical region. He had undergone right shoulder arthroscopy as well as radiofrequency ablation of the left cervical medial branches. His pain has been chronically manage with opioids, muscle relaxants, benzodiazepines and topical analgesics. Progress note October 2013 indicated he had been on Senokot continuously. A progress note on January 2014 indicated he had still been on Senokot. During each visit and those visits in between there is no mention of constipation or gastrointestinal issues.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Senokot #100: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 82-92.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM guidelines, prophylaxis for constipation is recommended when initiating opioids. In this case the claimant had been on opioids for an

extended time frame as well as the use of the laxative Senokot. There were no gastrointestinal complaints or constipation noted. There's no indication or alteration of opioids that would reduce the need of laxatives. The continued long-term use of Senokot is not indicated nor medically necessary based on lack of any clinical symptoms and timeframe beyond the initiation of opioids.