

Case Number:	CM14-0047295		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	02/06/2006
Decision Date:	10/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/16/2014

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 and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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 records presented for review indicate that this 57 year-old female was reportedly injured on 2/6/2006. The most recent progress note, dated 6/26/2014, indicates that there are ongoing complaints of low back pain. The physical examination demonstrated lumbar spine range of motion is 20% of expected limited only and extension. Lower extremity stretch reflexes are 1+ bilaterally. Giveaway weakness of both lower extremities. Sensory deficit of left leg in the L3-S1 dermatomes. No recent diagnostic studies are available for review. Previous treatment includes acupuncture, medications, and conservative treatment. A request had been made for tramadol 50 mg #90 and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on 4/3/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Tramadol 50mg # 90: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 78.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26; MTUS (Effective July 18, 2009) Page(s): 82, 113.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS guidelines support the use of Tramadol (Ultram) for short-term use after there is been evidence of failure of a first-line option, evidence of moderate

to severe pain, and documentation of improvement in function with the medication. A review of the available medical records fails to document any improvement in function or pain level with the previous use of Tramadol. As such, the request is not considered medically necessary.