

Case Number:	CM14-0049882		
Date Assigned:	04/21/2014	Date of Injury:	04/14/2009
Decision Date:	05/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/17/2014

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 Occupational Medicine, 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 55-year-old male with a 4/14/09 date of injury. At the time (3/14/14) of request for authorization for Flexeril 5 mg tablet sig; take 1 twice daily as needed qty: 60.00 refill 1, there is documentation of subjective (right elbow pain) and objective (tenderness to palpation over the right lateral epicondyle, tenderness to palpation over the left lateral and medial epicondyle, and motor strength of elbow flexor at 3/5 and elbow extensor at 3/5 bilaterally) findings, current diagnoses (elbow pain), and treatment to date (medication (including Flexeril since at least 10/25/13)). Medical report identifies that medications work well to decrease pain, optimize patient's function, and help tolerate daily activities. There is no documentation of acute muscle spasm and the intention to treat over a short course (less than two weeks).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

FLEXERIL 5 MG TABLET SIG; TAKE 1 TWICE DAILY AS NEEDED QTY: 60.00 REFILL. 1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antispasmodics Page(s): 64.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril), Page(s): 41-42. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Muscle relaxants (for pain), MTUS definitions (f)

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that Flexeril is recommended for a short course of therapy. 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. ODG identifies that muscle relaxants are recommended as a second line option for short-term (less than two weeks) treatment of acute low back pain and for short-term treatment of acute exacerbations in patients with chronic low back pain. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of elbow pain. In addition, there is documentation of ongoing treatment with Flexeril since at least 10/25/13 and that medications work well to decrease pain, optimize patient's function, and help tolerate daily activities. However, there is no documentation of acute muscle spasm. In addition, given documentation of records reflecting prescriptions for Flexeril since at least 10/25/13, there is no documentation of the intention to treat over a short course (less than two weeks). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Flexeril 5 mg tablet sig; take 1 twice daily as needed qty: 60.00 refill 1 is not medically necessary.