

Case Number:	CM14-0050164		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	09/13/1997
Decision Date:	09/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/09/2014
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 Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 37-year-old male who was injured on September 13, 1997. The patient continued to experience back pain. Physical examination was notable for tenderness to palpation over the bilateral lumbar facets and positive right straight leg raise at 50 degrees. Diagnoses included post-laminectomy syndrome and lumbosacral neuritis. Treatment included medications and surgery. Request for authorization for suboxone 8 mg-2mg # 120 was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Suboxone 8mg-2mg #120 as needed: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Page(s): 26-27. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain: Buprenorphine.

Decision rationale: Suboxone is combination of the opioid Buprenorphine and Naloxone. It is recommended as an option for treatment of chronic pain (consensus based) in selected patients (not first-line for all patients). Suggested populations: (1) Patients with a Hyperalgesic

component to pain; (2) Patients with centrally mediated pain; (3) Patients with neuropathic pain; (4) Patients at high-risk of non-adherence with standard opioid maintenance; (5) For analgesia in patients who have previously been detoxified from other high-dose opioids. Use for pain with formulations other than Butrans is off-label. Due to complexity of induction and treatment the drug should be reserved for use by clinicians with experience. In this case there is no documentation that supports the patient's inclusion in the suggested populations. Medical necessity has not been established. The request is not medically necessary at this time.