

Case Number:	CM14-0052193		
Date Assigned:	07/23/2014	Date of Injury:	11/01/1995
Decision Date:	08/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/21/2014

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 61 year-old individual was reportedly injured on 11/1/1995. The mechanism of injury is not listed in these records reviewed. The most recent progress note, dated 5/6/2014, indicates that there are ongoing complaints of left shoulder pain and bilateral wrist pain. No physical examination was performed on this date of service. No recent diagnostic studies are available for review. Previous treatment includes medication, and conservative treatment. A request had been made for Kava Kava #90, Opana IR 10 mg, #120, and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on 3/27/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Prescription of Kava Kava #90: Upheld

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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness & Stress, Kava.

Decision rationale: Kava extract is recommended in the aqueous extract as an option for the treatment of anxiety, with concerns about hepatotoxicity. A systematic review of seven clinical

trials testing the use of Kava extract to treat anxiety found that all of the trial results suggest that Kava extract is superior compared with placebo as a treatment option for anxiety. After review of the medical documentation provided there were no examples of depression or anxiety listed in history of present illness, nor were there any objective clinical findings in the physical exam section. Therefore, lacking pertinent documentation supporting the need for this treatment this request is deemed not medically necessary.

Prescription of Opana IR 10 mg. #120: Upheld

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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (Chronic) Oxymorphone (Opana®).

Decision rationale: Opana or Oxymorphone is not recommended as a first-line treatment. Due to issues of abuse and Black Box FDA warnings, Oxymorphone is recommended as second line therapy for long acting opioids. Oxymorphone products do not appear to have any clear benefit over other agents, and have disadvantages related to dose timing (taking the IR formulation with food can lead to overdose), and potential for serious adverse events (when the ER formulation is combined with alcohol use a potentially fatal overdose may result). After review of the medical records provided, there was no documentation of failure of recommended first-line treatment options. Therefore this request is deemed not medically necessary.