MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0060750		
Date Assigned:	07/09/2014	Date of Injury:	07/25/2007
Decision Date:	09/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/01/2014

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:

The patient is a represented [redacted] employee who has filed a claim for chronic shoulder, neck, wrist, and low back pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of July 25, 2007. Thus far, the patient has been treated with the following: Analgesic medications; attorney representation; transfer of care to and from various providers in various specialties; and unspecified amounts of physical therapy over the life of the claim.In a Utilization Review Report dated April 21, 2014, the claims administrator denied cyclobenzaprine, both prospectively and retrospectively. The patient was, per the claims administrator, concurrently using a variety of other medications, including naproxen, Protonix, and buprenorphine, it was incidentally noted. The patient's attorney subsequently appealed.In a March 31, 2014 progress note, the patient presented with persistent complaints of shoulder and wrist pain. The patient was using naproxen, Protonix, and Flexeril, it was stated. Buprenorphine had apparently been prescribed but had not been furnished, the attending provider posited. Buprenorphine was again re-prescribed. It was suggested that the patient continued to work regular duty despite pain and complications including morbid obesity. On January 27, 2014, the patient was described as using naproxen, Protonix, Flexeril, and Ultracet. Massage therapy and a psychological consultation were sought. It was again suggested that the patient was working regular dutytherapy over the life of the claim.In a Utilization Review Report dated April 21, 2014, the claims administrator denied cyclobenzaprine, both prospectively and retrospectively. The applicant was, per the claims administrator, concurrently using a variety of other medications, including naproxen, Protonix, and buprenorphine, it was incidentally noted.The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed.In a March 31, 2014 progress note, the applicant presented with persistent complaints of shoulder and wrist pain. The applicant was using naproxen, Protonix, and Flexeril, it was stated. Buprenorphine had apparently been prescribed

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IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request (DOS: 3/31/14) for Cyclobenzaprine 5mg #90: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle relaxants. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), TWC Pain Procedure Summary.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Cyclobenzaprine topic Page(s): 41.

Decision rationale: As noted on page 41 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, addition of cyclobenzaprine or Flexeril to other agents is not recommended. In this case, the applicant is, in fact, using a variety of other agents, including naproxen and Ultracet. Adding cyclobenzaprine or Flexeril to the mix was not recommended. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.

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