

Case Number:	CM14-0062026		
Date Assigned:	07/09/2014	Date of Injury:	07/19/2012
Decision Date:	09/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/02/2014

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 Internal Medicine & Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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:

This patient is a 46 year-old with a date of injury of 07/19/12. The progress report presented that most proximate to the request for services, dated 01/22/14, identified subjective complaints of spasms of an unidentified muscle group, poor sleep, and irritability. Objective findings included tenderness to palpation of the cervical and lumbar spines with decreased range of motion. Sensation was diminished. Diagnoses included cervical and lumbar sprain/strain. Treatment had included oral opioids and an anti-seizure agent. A Utilization Review determination was rendered on 04/10/14 recommending non-certification of "Soma 350 mg #90".

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Soma 350 mg #90: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Carisoprodol (Soma) Page(s): 65.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Carisoprodol (Soma); Muscle Relaxants Page(s): 29, 63-66.

Decision rationale: Soma (carisoprodol) is a centrally acting antispasmodic muscle relaxant with the metabolite meprobamate, a schedule-IV controlled substance. The Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule states that carisoprodol is not recommended. It has been suggested that the

main effect is due to generalized sedation and treatment of anxiety. It has interactions with other drugs including benzodiazepines, tramadol, and hydrocodone. It is associated withdrawal symptoms and is abused for the above mentioned effects. Therefore, there is no documented medical necessity for Soma.