

Case Number:	CM14-0072931		
Date Assigned:	07/16/2014	Date of Injury:	09/09/1997
Decision Date:	10/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/20/2014

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 Family Practice, 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:

57 yr. old male claimant sustained cumulative work injuries on 9/9/97 involving the low back and left knee. He was diagnosed with lumbar stenosis at L5-S1, lumbar degenerative disc disease of L5-S1 and left knee pain. He had been on Lyrica 75 mg BID for neuropathic symptoms as well as Tramadol, Robaxin and hydrocodone for several months. A progress note on 7/18/14 indicated the claimant had 6/10 pain with medications. Exam findings were notable for crepitus in the left knee. Back pain reduced with lying down. The treating physician recommended weaning of Lyrica within 2 weeks.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lyrica 75mg 2 x day QTY: 60 to wean with target of completely off the medication, with a duration of 1-2 weeks to achieve weaning target.: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Lyrica Page(s): 99.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS guidelines, Pregabalin (Lyrica) has been documented to be effective in treatment of diabetic neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia.

Weaning should occur over a one-week period. In this case, the claimant did not have the above diagnoses. In addition, weaning is not needed over 2 weeks. The use of Lyrica and the weaning protocol above is not medically necessary.