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| Case Number: | CM14-0079368 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 07/18/2014 | Date of Injury: | 01/20/2009 |
| Decision Date: | 08/15/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 05/20/2014 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 05/29/2014 |

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 and is licensed to practice in Virginia and the District of Columbia. 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 is a 67 year old patient who sustained injury on Jan 20 2009 and had ongoing issues with lower back pain. This was noted by the patient when he performed his daily activities. He was found to have lumbar hypoesthesia by [REDACTED]. A non-invasive DNA test was requested.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

NON-INVASIVE DNA TEST: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES/genetic testing for potential opioid abuse.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) genetic testing.

Decision rationale: Based on the clinical documentation provided, genetic testing is not recommended. Per ODG, while there appears to be a strong genetic component to addictive behavior, current research is experimental in terms of testing for this. Studies are inconsistent, with inadequate statistics and large phenotype range. Different studies use different criteria for definition of controls. More work is needed to verify the role of variants suggested to be associated with addiction and for clearer understanding of their role in different populations

(Levrán 2012). Translating pharmacogenetics to clinical practice has been particularly challenging in the context of pain, due to the complexity of this multifaceted phenotype and the overall subjective nature of pain perception and response to analgesia. Overall, numerous genes involved with the pharmacokinetics and dynamics of opioids response is strong; however there has been no randomized clinical trial on the benefits of genetic testing prior to oxycodone therapy. On the other hand, predicting the analgesic response to morphine based on pharmacogenetic testing is more complex, though there was hope that simple genetic testing would allow tailoring morphine doses to provide optimal analgesia; this is unlikely to occur. A variety of polymorphisms clearly influence pain perception and behavior in response to pain. However, the response to analgesics also differs depending on the pain modality and the potential for repeated noxious stimuli, the opioid prescribed, and even its route of administration (Vuilleuimer 2012). The request for Non-Invasive DNA Test is therefore not medically necessary.