

Case Number:	CM14-0079747		
Date Assigned:	07/18/2014	Date of Injury:	04/16/2003
Decision Date:	08/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/30/2014

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 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 49-year-old male with a 4/16/03 date of injury and status post lumbar fusion in 2009 and subsequent hardware removal in 2011. At the time (5/6/14) of request for authorization for Oxycontin 30mg #90, there is documentation of subjective (chronic significant low back pain and headaches) and objective (antalgic gait, decreased lumbar range of motion, positive straight leg raise, tenderness to palpation over the lumbar paravertebral muscles, and decreased sensation over the bilateral lower extremities) findings, current diagnoses (status post lumbar spinal fusion L4 to S1 with subsequent removal of hardware, bilateral lower extremity radiculopathy, status post permanent implantation lumbar spinal cord stimulator, and lumbar degenerative disc disease), and treatment to date (Oxycontin since at least 8/24/13). In addition, medical report identifies a signed pain contract. There is no documentation that a continuous, around-the-clock analgesic is needed for an extended period of time; and functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of use of Oxycontin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Oxycontin 30mg #90: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids; Oxycodone Page(s): 74-80; 92.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of moderate to severe pain when a continuous, around-the-clock analgesic is needed for an extended period of time, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Oxycontin. In addition, MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Oxycontin. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of status post lumbar spinal fusion L4 to S1 with subsequent removal of hardware, bilateral lower extremity radiculopathy, status post permanent implantation lumbar spinal cord stimulator, and lumbar degenerative disc disease. In addition, there is documentation of chronic severe pain. Furthermore, given documentation of a signed pain contract, there is documentation that the prescriptions are from a single practitioner and are taken as directed; the lowest possible dose is being prescribed; and there will be ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. However, there is no documentation that a continuous, around-the-clock analgesic is needed for an extended period of time. In addition, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Oxycontin since at least 8/24/13, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of use of Oxycontin. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Oxycontin 30mg #90 is not medically necessary and appropriate.