

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0086711		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/23/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/07/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/08/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/28/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	06/10/2014

### 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:

Injured worker is a male with date of injury 4/7/2003. Per comprehensive medical-legal evaluation report dated 4/17/2014, the injured worker complains of bilateral low back pain, left scapular and left thoracic back pain and left knee pain. Exacerbating factors are all movements, and mitigating factors are pain medications. On examination, lumbar and left knee ranges of motion were restricted by pain in all directions. Lumbar extension is more painful than lumbar flexion. There is tenderness upon palpation of the lumbar paraspinal muscles overlying the bilateral L2-S1 facet joints. Lumbar facet joints and left knee provocative maneuvers were positive. There is tenderness upon palpation of the left knee joint lines. There is positive crepitus and clicking of the left knee. There is medial joint line tenderness. Nerve root tension signs were negative bilaterally. Muscle stretch reflexes were symmetric bilaterally in all limbs. Clonus, Babinski's and Hoffman's signs were absent bilaterally. Muscle strength is 5/5 in all limbs bilaterally. The remainder of the examination is unchanged from the previous visit. Diagnoses include 1) status post positive diagnostic bilateral L3-4 and bilateral L4-5 lumbar facet joint radiofrequency nerve ablation 2) bilateral lumbar facet joint pain at L3-4 and L4-5 as diagnosed and confirmed by positive diagnostic fluoroscopically guided bilateral L3-4 and bilateral L4-5 facet joint medial branch blocks 3) bilateral facet joint pain at L4-S1 4) bilateral lumbar facet joint arthropathy at L3-4, L4-5, L5-S1 5) lumbar disc protrusion 6) lumbar sprain/strain 7) left thoracic sprain/strain 8) left thoracic back pain 9) status post total knee replacement 10) left knee internal derangement 11) status post left knee surgeries 12) right knee pain secondary to compensation from the left knee injury and antalgic gait.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Sumatriptan 100mg, Quantity Unknown:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Treatment in Workers' Compensation (ODG-TWC), 12th Edition, Head, Triptans

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Sumatriptan drug information, accessed on [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com)

**Decision rationale:** The requesting physician explains that Sumitripain 100 mg is necessary to treat the injured worker's headache related to stress and anxiety secondary to industrial pain. Sumatriptan is used for migraine headaches, with or without aura. It is also used to treat cluster headaches. It works by narrowing blood vessels in the brain which helps relieve migraine and cluster headaches. There is no indication that the injured worker suffers from migraine or cluster type headaches. The request for Sumatriptan 100mg, Quantity Unknown is determined to not be medically necessary.