

Case Number:	CM14-0089925		
Date Assigned:	07/23/2014	Date of Injury:	01/23/2009
Decision Date:	08/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/13/2014

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 Pain Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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:

The injured worker is a 57-year-old female who reported an injury to her cervical region. The utilization review dated 05/14/14 resulted in denials for genetic metabolism tests and genetic opioid risk tests as insufficient information has been submitted in peer reviewed literature supporting the safety and efficacy of the use of these exams. The clinical note dated 04/21/14 indicates the injured worker complaining of chronic neck pain. The pain was located in the lower neck region with extension into the upper shoulder region. There is an indication the injured worker is utilizing Norco for pain relief. The injured worker reported a 50% reduction in pain with the use of the current medication regimen. The injured worker was being recommended for genetic testing. A urine drug screen completed on 03/11/14 revealed findings consistent with the injured worker's prescribed drug regimen. No inconsistencies were identified.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Genetic Metabolism Test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 44. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Mayoclinic.com.

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:1.)Fischbach FT, Dunning MB III, eds. (2009). Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, 8th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.2.)Pagana KD, Pagana T

Decision rationale: The documentation indicates the injured worker complaining of chronic neck pain. The clinical notes indicate the injured worker being recommended to use Norco for pain relief. There is an indication the injured worker is responding appropriately with a 50% reduction in pain. No high quality studies have been submitted confirming the use of genetic testing as an indicator for the effectiveness of opioid therapy. Therefore, this request is not indicated as medically necessary.

Genetic opioid test at Proove Bio-sciences: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 44. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Mayoclinic.com.

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: 1.)Fischbach FT, Dunning MB III, eds. (2009). Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests, 8th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.2.)Pagana KD, Pagana

Decision rationale: The documentation indicates the injured worker complaining of chronic neck pain. The clinical notes indicate the injured worker being recommended to use Norco for pain relief. There is an indication the injured worker is responding appropriately with a 50% reduction in pain. However, no high quality studies have been submitted confirming the use of the proposed genetic testing as an indicator for the effectiveness of opioid therapy. Therefore, this request is not indicated as medically necessary.