

Case Number:	CM14-0091210		
Date Assigned:	07/23/2014	Date of Injury:	04/23/2012
Decision Date:	09/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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 45-year-old female who reported an injury on 04/23/2012. The mechanism of injury was not provided within the medical records. The clinical note dated 05/14/2014 indicated diagnoses of spinal cord injury, carpal tunnel syndrome, and peripheral neuropathy. The injured worker reported neck pain, bilateral wrist pain, and bilateral hand pain. The injured worker reported her quality of sleep was fair. The injured worker reported Dilaudid dulls her pain and is less harsh on her stomach versus the Percocet. The injured worker reported she would like to continue with that medication for pain control. The injured worker reported no constipation with the use of Dilaudid. However, she reported she was using MiraLAX daily. On physical examination of the cervical spine, range of motion was restricted. The injured worker's Spurling's maneuver caused pain in the muscles of the neck, but no radicular symptoms. On sensory examination, light touch sensation was decreased over medial hand, lateral hand, 1st toe, 2nd toe, 3rd toe, 4th toe, 5th toe, and left L3-S1 dermatomes bilaterally. Sensation to pinprick was decreased over L4-S1 dermatome on the left side. The injured worker's cerebellar examination revealed a positive Romberg's test. The injured worker also had a positive Hoffmann's sign. The injured worker's treatment plan is for follow-up. The injured worker's prior treatments included diagnostic imaging and medication management. The injured worker's medication regimen included Gabapentin, Percocet, Dilaudid, ibuprofen, and Omeprazole. The provider submitted a request for Dilaudid. A Request for Authorization was not submitted for review to include the date the treatment was requested.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Dilaudid 4mg #84: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids, Criteria for Use, On-going Management Page(s): 78.

Decision rationale: The request for Dilaudid 4mg #84 is not medically necessary. The California MTUS Guidelines recommend the use of opioids for the ongoing management of chronic low back pain. The ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects should be evident. There is a lack of significant evidence of an objective assessment of the injured worker's pain level, functional status, and evaluation of risk for aberrant drug use behaviors and side effects. Furthermore, the request does not indicate a frequency. In addition, it was not indicated if the injured worker had a signed opioid agreement. Therefore, the request for Dilaudid 4mg #84 is not medically necessary.