

Case Number:	CM14-0113178		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	02/12/1996
Decision Date:	12/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/18/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:
State(s) of Licensure: California, District of Columbia,
Maryland Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain
Management

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 52 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 2-12-1996. The injured worker is undergoing treatment for cervicgia, thoracic outlet syndrome, lumbar pain, cervical radiculopathy, cervical degenerative disc disease (DDD), cervical, thoracic and left shoulder ankylosis and complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) of neck, left upper extremity and left thoracic region. Medical records dated 5-21-2014 indicate the injured worker complains of neck, left upper extremity and back pain. She reports 50% pain reduction with use of Oxycontin. Physical exam dated 5-21-2014 notes cervical and shoulder tenderness to palpation with painful decreased range of motion (ROM). Treatment to date has included spinal cord stimulator, thoracic spine decompression and medication including Oxycontin since at least 12-27-2013. The original utilization review dated 6-27-2014 indicates the request for Oxycontin 20mg #120 is non-certified.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Oxycontin 20mg, # 210: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Workers

Compensation Drug Formulary; Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics; Physician's Desk Reference 68th Edition.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Opioids, criteria for use.

Decision rationale: Per MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines p78 regarding on-going management of opioids "Four domains have been proposed as most relevant for ongoing monitoring of chronic pain patients on opioids: Pain relief, side effects, physical and psychosocial functioning, and the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or non-adherent) drug related behaviors. These domains have been summarized as the "4 A's" (Analgesia, activities of daily living, adverse side effects, and any aberrant drug-taking behaviors). The monitoring of these outcomes over time should affect therapeutic decisions and provide a framework for documentation of the clinical use of these controlled drugs."Review of the available medical records reveals insufficient documentation to support the medical necessity of oxycontin or sufficient documentation addressing the '4 A's' domains, which is a recommended practice for the on-going management of opioids. Specifically, the notes do not appropriately review and document functional status improvement, appropriate medication use, or side effects. The MTUS considers this list of criteria for initiation and continuation of opioids in the context of efficacy required to substantiate medical necessity, and they do not appear to have been addressed by the treating physician in the documentation available for review. Per the medical records, it was noted that the injured worker reported 50% pain reduction with the use of oxycontin. However, efforts to rule out aberrant behavior (e.g. CURES report, UDS, opiate agreement) are necessary to assure safe usage and establish medical necessity. There is no documentation comprehensively addressing this concern in the records available for my review. As MTUS recommends discontinuing opioids if there is no overall improvement in function, the request is not medically necessary and cannot be affirmed.