

Case Number:	CM14-0127543		
Date Assigned:	08/15/2014	Date of Injury:	03/17/2012
Decision Date:	02/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/12/2014

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 Family Practice, 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:

Patient had a date of injury on 3/17/2012. Patient fell into a manhole injuring his right lower extremity. Current medications include: Ambien, Norco, Ibuprofen and Prozac. Diagnosis includes: chronic low back pain, intermittent right knee pain, chronic right ankle pain.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Norco 10/325mg #90 (for weaning over 3 months): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 76-82.

Decision rationale: According to guidelines it states opioids should only be continued if there is functional improvement. It also states chronic use of opioids can lead to dependence and addiction. According to the patient's medical records it does not state the patient has functional improvement with opioid usage and thus is not medically necessary.