

Case Number:	CM14-0176751		
Date Assigned:	10/30/2014	Date of Injury:	07/05/2012
Decision Date:	01/02/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/26/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/24/2014

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:

The 58 year old female claimant sustained a work injury on 7/5/12 involving the neck and right knee. She was diagnosed with cervical radiculitis and right knee pain. She underwent chondroplasty of the right knee. A progress note on 9/15/14 indicated the claimant had continued neck and knee pain. She had been on Naproxen and Tramadol for pain. She had been on Flexeril for muscle spasms for several months. Exam findings were notable for crepitus in both knees, tenderness in the medial and lateral joint lines of both knees, limited range of motion of the neck and tenderness in the facets. The claimant had been continued on the Flexeril, Naproxen and Tramadol.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flexeril 7.5mg #60: 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 Flexeril Page(s): 63.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS guidelines , Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril) is more effective than placebo for back pain. It is recommended for short course therapy and has the

greatest benefit in the first 4 days suggesting that shorter courses may be better. Those with fibromyalgia were 3 times more likely to report overall improvement, particularly sleep. Treatment should be brief. There is also a post-op use. The addition of cyclobenzaprine to other agents is not recommended. The claimant had been on Flexeril for a prolonged period without significant improvement in spasms or function. Continued use of Flexeril is not medically necessary.