

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0191227		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/25/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	03/27/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/12/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/06/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/17/2014

### 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 Medicine, 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 3/27/2014. Patient injured his lower back after lifting potted plants. Patient has had physical therapy, chiropractic treatments. Diagnosis includes: lumbar radiculitis, displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Tramadol ER 150mg every day #30:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Functional improvement measures; Opioids, On-going Management

**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 Tramadol usage, therefore the request is not medically necessary.