

Case Number:	CM14-0196119		
Date Assigned:	12/04/2014	Date of Injury:	11/09/2007
Decision Date:	01/15/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/24/2014

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 American Board of 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:

This 50-years old male claimant sustained a work injury on 11/9/07 involving the neck and back. He was diagnosed with lumbar radiculopathy, cervical stenosis, and cervical radiculopathy and underwent a cervical spine fusion. He had been treated with opioids for pain control. A progress note on 10/1/14 indicated the claimant had persistent 10/10 cervical pain. He remained on Norco. Subsequent urine toxicology was ordered and a retro-authorization was requested for 10/1/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Urine toxicology screen: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Urine toxicology Page(s): 83-91.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, urine toxicology screen is used to assess presence of illicit drugs or to monitor adherence to prescription medication program. There's no documentation from the provider to suggest that there was illicit drug use or noncompliance. There were no prior urine drug screen results that

indicated noncompliance, substance-abuse or other inappropriate activity. Based on the above references and clinical history a urine toxicology screen is not medically necessary.