

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0202000		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/12/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/19/2000
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/03/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/20/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/03/2014

### 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 Preventive Medicine and is licensed to practice in Indiana. 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 employee is a 53 year old female with date of injury of 1/19/2000. A review of the medical records indicate that the patient is undergoing treatment for cervical strain/sprain. Subjective complaints include continued shooting pain in the neck. Objective findings include limited range of motion of the cervical spine with tenderness to palpation of the paravertebrals; motor, sensory, and reflex exam normal in upper extremities; electrodiagnostic studies were normal and MRI of the cervical spine did not show any disc protrusions or cervical radiculopathy. Treatment has included epidural steroid injections, Burtrans, Nucynta, and physical therapy. The utilization review dated 11/20/2014 partially-certified Nucynta 50 mg #60.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**3 prescription refills of Nucynta ER 50mg #60: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 174, 181. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pain (Chronic)

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

**Decision rationale:** MTUS states regarding the use of opioids that "ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Pain assessment should include: current pain; the least reported pain over the period since last assessment; average pain; intensity of pain after taking the opioid; how long it takes for pain relief; and how long pain relief lasts. Satisfactory response to treatment may be indicated by the patient's decreased pain, increased level of function, or improved quality of life." The treating physician does not fully document the least reported pain over the period since last assessment, intensity of pain after taking opioid, pain relief, increased level of function, or improved quality of life. The original reviewer modified the request down to 30 units to allow for proper monitoring and further submission of documentation for continued use. The medical records do not support continued use without updated documentation per guidelines. As such, the request for Nucynta 50 mg, #60 is not medically indicated.