

Case Number:	CM14-0202432		
Date Assigned:	12/15/2014	Date of Injury:	10/30/2009
Decision Date:	02/03/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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:

The injured worker is a 32 year old female who sustained a work related injury on 10/30/2009. The mechanism of the injury was not documented in the clinical records submitted for review. Diagnoses include: lumbago, backache, cervicobrachial syndrome, brachial neuritis/radicul, displaced lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy, and UNS thoracic/lumbar neuritis. Current treatment history lists: medication, toxicology testing, physical therapy, session dates were not included for review and epidural steroid injection L/S and C/S both pending. This is a request for decision for Soma 350mg #60 medication refill. On 11/21/2014 Utilization Review non-certified the requests for the Soma 350mg #60 medication refill. In this case the injury dated back to 2009 and there is no documentation of a recent exacerbation of pain, however, due to the nature of this medication, weaning is recommended. Therefore, the request for Soma 350mg #60 was recommended for non-certification.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Soma 350 MG #60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Carisoprodol (Soma) and Muscle relaxants (for pain) Page(s): 29, 63-66. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Chronic Pain, Soma (Carisoprodol).

Decision rationale: MTUS states regarding Carisoprodol, "Not recommended. This medication is not indicated for long-term use. Carisoprodol is a commonly prescribed, centrally acting skeletal muscle relaxant whose primary active metabolite is meprobamate (a schedule-IV controlled substance). Carisoprodol is now scheduled in several states but not on a federal level. It has been suggested that the main effect is due to generalized sedation and treatment of anxiety. Abuse has been noted for sedative and relaxant effects. In regular abusers the main concern is the accumulation of meprobamate. Carisoprodol abuse has also been noted in order to augment or alter effects of other drugs." ODG States that Soma is "Not recommended. This medication is FDA-approved for symptomatic relief of discomfort associated with acute pain in musculoskeletal conditions as an adjunct to rest and physical therapy (AHFS, 2008). This medication is not indicated for long-term use." The patient has been on the medication several months. Guidelines do not recommend long term usage of SOMA. Treating physician does not detail circumstances that would warrant extended usage. As such, the request for Soma 350 MG # 60 is not medically necessary.