

Case Number:	CM14-0207947		
Date Assigned:	12/19/2014	Date of Injury:	10/18/2013
Decision Date:	02/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/12/2014

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:

Patient had a date of injury on 10/18/2013. Patient fell injuring her left elbow, neck, low back. Patient had xrays and a CT scan which were negative. Treatment has included physical therapy and pain medications. Diagnosis includes neck pain, depression, low back pain, thoracic pain, epicondylitis and tendinitis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Hydrocodone/APAP 5/325mg quantity 90: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 76-82.

Decision rationale: Based on guidelines it states first line treatment should be used prior to opioids. Opioids should only be used for moderate pain and the patient should have functional improvement. According to the medical records the patient shows no improvement with opioids and thus is not medically necessary.