

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0000190		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/09/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/16/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/19/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/10/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/02/2015

### 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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:  
 State(s) of Licensure: Arizona, Texas  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine

### 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 63 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 7/16/2009. The IW is complaining that the current medication as prescribed is not managing his chronic pain symptoms of left hand pain. The physician documents treating diagnosis of contracture along the ring and little MP joint and DIP joint; status post contracture release along MP joint with success and failed proximal interphalangeal release, chronic pain syndrome, mild element of regional chronic pain syndrome. There was confusion as to the IW receiving Norco 10/325mg by another physician as well as by this treating physician. The treating physician reduced the quantity and as a result, the IW ran out of pain medication. Per discussion, the Physician agreed to a new prescription for requested amount, but recommended a transfer of IW to another pain management physician. Prior treatment has been medication, PT and TENS unit. Physician is requesting Labs to include CBC and Basic Metabolic Panel. Utilization Review denied the requested services on 12/10/2014 per MTUS 2009 Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Complete blood count:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0004811/>

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation UptoDate.com. Drug information for Oxycontin, Lunesta, Norco

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS is silent regarding the use of a CBC and BMP when monitoring patients taking medications and treatments for chronic pain. The patient is taking oxycontin and norco for chronic pain and lunesta for insomnia. According to Uptodate.com these medications do not require any laboratory studies for safe monitoring. The documentation doesn't clearly state the medical necessity for the use of these lab studies.

**Basic metabolic panel:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0003934/>

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation UptoDate.com. Drug information for Oxycontin, Lunesta, Norco

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS is silent regarding the use of a CBC and BMP when monitoring patients taking medications and treatments for chronic pain. The patient is taking oxycontin and norco for chronic pain and lunesta for insomnia. According to Uptodate.com these medications do not require any laboratory studies for safe monitoring. The documentation doesn't clearly state the medical necessity for the use of these lab studies.