

Case Number:	CM15-0004091		
Date Assigned:	01/15/2015	Date of Injury:	09/26/2012
Decision Date:	03/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/08/2015

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 60-year-old female who reported injury on 09/26/2012. The mechanism of injury was not provided. The injured worker underwent a left carpal tunnel release on 10/14/2013, and a left de Quervain's release on 02/24/2014. The injured worker underwent a urine drug screen on 03/12/2014 and 06/04/2014 which were negative for all substances. There was a Request for Authorization submitted for Norco 10/325 mg on 07/22/2014. The documentation of 07/16/2014 revealed the injured worker had better relief with Norco 4 times a day and ran out of medications 9 days previously. The injured worker indicated her pain flared up and was requesting a refill on Norco and something for pain. The injured worker indicated her pain level was 8/10 in intensity without medication, and 5/10 to 7/10 with Norco. The medications included Lexapro, Tylenol, and Motrin, as well as Norco. The injured worker indicated she quit smoking 20 years ago and does not drink alcohol. The physical examination revealed there were no signs of over sedation or aberrant behavior. The diagnosis included bilateral epicondylitis and myofascial pain syndrome. The injured worker was unable to perform a Phalen's sign and the Tinel's sign was positive bilaterally. The left Finkelstein's sign was positive. The treatment plan included the injured worker was given 60 mg of IM toradol, and a urine drug screen was performed. No Request for Authorization submitted for review for the urine drug screen.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

High complexity qualitative drug screen by immunoassay method with alcohol testing, any method other than breath (performed July 16, 2014): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Criteria for Use of Opioids and Drug Testing Sections.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Ongoing Management Page(s): 78.

Decision rationale: The California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Guidelines recommend urine drug screens for injured workers who have documented issues of drug abuse, addiction, or poor pain control. The clinical documentation submitted for review indicated the injured worker had a flareup of pain. The prior urine drug screens were noted to be negative. The injured worker was a non-alcohol user. There was documentation the injured worker had no aberrant drug behavior, and no over sedation. The documentation indicated the injured worker had run out of medications, which would not support the necessity for a urine drug screen. Given the above, the request for a high complexity qualitative drug screen by immunoassay method with alcohol testing, any method other than breath (performed July 16, 2014) is not medically necessary.