

Case Number:	CM15-0009304		
Date Assigned:	01/27/2015	Date of Injury:	05/18/2006
Decision Date:	03/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/15/2015

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: Florida
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 was a 48 year old female, who sustained a work related injury, on May 18, 2006, September 28, 2005, September 28, 2006, September 22, 2006, December 15, 2006 and November 20, 2011 to November 20, 2012. The injured workers chief complaint was back pain with radiation down the left leg great than the right and neck pain with stiffness. The injured worker was diagnosed with musculoligamentous sprain cervical spine, right upper extremity radiculitis, lateral epicondylitis, bilateral elbow, cubital tunnel syndrome bilateral elbow, status post left ulnar nerve transposition, carpal tunnel syndrome bilateral wrists, musculoligamentous sprain lumbar spine with lower extremity radiculitis, status post anterior lumbar interbody fusion and posterior laminectomy with instrumentation at L4-L5, internal derangement of bilateral knees and lateral ligament injury to the left ankle. Also, the injured worker had Insomnia, depression and anxiety. The injured worker was treated pain management treatment, braces to both wrists, Neurontin, Celebrex, ambien, Cymbalta, Flexeril, home exercise program, physical therapy in the past, evaluation, laboratory studies, EMG/NCS (electromyography and nerve conduction studies), epidural steroid injections, acupuncture and aqua therapy. On November 7, 2014, the primary treating physician requested authorization for urine dip stick W/O microscopy immunoassay, acetaminophen, benzodiazepines, nicotine, opiates, dihydrocodeinone, dihydromorhinone, creatinine drug confirmation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective urine dipstick w/o microscopy (Immunoassay, Acetaminophen, Benzodiazepines, Nicotine, Opiates, Dihydrocodeinone, Dihydromorhinone, Creatinine, Drug confirmation) for date of service 11/07/2014: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation California MTUS Guidelines, Chronic Pain section, urine drug testing, web-based edition http://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch-_5sb1a5_5_2.html

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Criteria for the use of opioids Page(s): pages 77-79.

Decision rationale: A 9/18/2014 drug screen result is made available for review in the provided documentation. A drug screen was then repeated on 11/13/2014. Records do not infer that there is any suspicion of aberrant behavior. The MTUS guidelines recommend frequent and random urine drug screens where aberrant behavior is suspected. The ODG states that individuals considered at low risk for aberrant behavior should be screened within 6 months of the initiation of therapy and then on a yearly basis thereafter. Therefore, this request for drug testing is not considered medically necessary.