

Case Number:	CM15-0133051		
Date Assigned:	07/21/2015	Date of Injury:	09/21/2000
Decision Date:	09/23/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/09/2015

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: Texas, California
 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 is a 60 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/21/2000. He reported a gunshot wound to the low back. The injured worker was diagnosed as having cervical spondylosis without myelopathy, brachial neuritis or radiculitis, insomnia due to chronic pain, chronic opioid dependence, and lumbar intervertebral disc displacement. Treatment to date has included medications, TENS, and physical therapy. On 4/27/2015, he reported having an exacerbation of pain with the severity increasing substantially. He rated his average pain from 4 down to 2 with the use of treatment. He indicated he had 50% improvement of function with treatment. His medications included Lorzone for muscle spasticity. The treatment plan included: Lorzone, Celebrex, Cymbalta, and Lactulose. He complained of neck, low back and right shoulder pain. On 5/25/2015, he complained of neck, low back, and right shoulder pain. He reported having 50% improvement in activities of daily living. Physical findings revealed tenderness in the neck, low back, and right shoulder. He is noted to be partially paralyzed in the extremities due to a spinal cord injury. The patient has had limited range of motion of the cervical spine, decreased sensation in C5 dermatome. The patient has had history of muscle spasm and stiffness. No spasms or spasticity is noted in the examination. The treatment plan included: continuing TENS, and acupuncture. Lorzone is indicated to be for spasticity due to a spinal cord injury in the low back. The medication lists include Lorzone, Celebrex, Cymbalta, Skelaxin, Lyrica, Ibuprofen, Norco and Lactulose. The patient had used a TENS unit for this injury. Any surgical or procedure note related to this injury was not specified in the records provided. The patient has had an X-ray of the cervical spine that revealed bullet fragment in

spinal column with injury to mid cervical area. The patient had used brace and crutches for this injury. The patient had received an unspecified number of acupuncture visits for this injury. The patient has had a gunshot wound at L5 level and had weakness in lower extremity and foot drop.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 prescription for Lorzone 750mg #90: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain (Chronic), Lorzone (chlorzoxazone).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle relaxants, page 63, Page 65, Chlorzoxazone (Parafon Forte, Paraflex, Relax/DS, Remular S, generic available) Page(s): 63-66.

Decision rationale: Prescription for Lorzone 750mg #90: Lorzone 750 mg quantity 60 contains Chlorzoxazone which is a muscle relaxant. California MTUS, Chronic pain medical treatment guidelines recommend non-sedating muscle relaxants with caution as a second-line option for short-term treatment of acute exacerbations in patients with chronic LBP. Per the guideline, "muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility". California MTUS, Chronic pain medical treatment guidelines recommend non-sedating muscle relaxants with caution as a second-line option for short-term treatment of acute exacerbations in patients with chronic LBP. Patient reported a gunshot wound to the low back. The injured worker was diagnosed as having cervical spondylosis without myelopathy, brachial neuritis or radiculitis, insomnia due to chronic pain, chronic opioid dependence, and lumbar intervertebral disc displacement. On 4/27/2015, he reported having an exacerbation of pain with the severity increasing substantially. He rated his average pain from 4 down to 2 with the use of treatment. He indicated he had 50% improvement of function with treatment. He complained of neck, low back and right shoulder pain. On 5/25/2015, he complained of neck, low back, and right shoulder pain. He reported having 50% improvement in activities of daily living. Physical findings revealed tenderness in the neck, low back, and right shoulder. He is noted to be partially paralyzed in the extremities due to a spinal cord injury. The patient has had limited range of motion of the cervical spine, decreased sensation in C 5 dermatome. The patient has had history of muscle spasm and stiffness. The X-rays of the cervical spine revealed a bullet fragment in the spinal column with injury to the mid cervical area. The patient has evidence of muscle spasm and stiffness on objective examination. The patient also has chronic conditions with abnormal objective findings. These conditions are prone to intermittent exacerbations. Therefore with this, it is deemed that, the use of Lorzone 750mg #90 is medically appropriate and necessary in this patient.