

Case Number:	CM15-0137459		
Date Assigned:	07/27/2015	Date of Injury:	03/21/2000
Decision Date:	08/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/15/2015

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: 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 62-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 3/21/00. She reported right arm pain, neck pain, and headaches. The injured worker was diagnosed as having carpal tunnel syndrome, right shoulder pain, cervical disc disorder, and spasm of muscle. Treatment to date has included physical therapy, bilateral carpal tunnel surgery, right shoulder surgery, psychotherapy, and medication. The injured worker had been taking Lamotrigine since at least 3/4/15. Currently, the injured worker complains of depression, neck pain, and shoulder pain. The treating physician requested authorization for Lamotrigine 100mg #30. Per the note dated 6/3/15 the patient had complaints of pain in neck and shoulder at 4-6/10. The patient has also had complaints of poor sleep and dizziness. Physical examination of the cervical region revealed tenderness on palpation, limited range of motion, positive Spurling sign. The patient has had psychiatric evaluation on 6/11/15 that revealed she had severe depression, anhedonia mood, insomnia, decreased appetite, weight loss and hopelessness. Patient had developed psychiatric symptoms after physical injury. The patient has had history of suicidal attempt. The patient has had episodes of pulling hair and had noticeable area of hair loss. She had received sleep medication; the patient has had history of repetitive stress from work. The patient's surgical history includes bilateral CTR and shoulder surgery and cervical fusion in 2001. The medication list includes Effexor, Bupropion, Lamotrigine, Ritalin, Norco and Duragesic patch.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 prescription of Lamotrigine 100mg #30: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page 20 Lamotrigine Antiepilepsy drugs (AEDs) Page 16. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (updated 07/15/15) Anti-epilepsy drugs (AEDs) for pain Lamotrigine (lamictal) is an antiepileptic drug. It is also used in psychiatric conditions like bipolar disorder.

Decision rationale: Per the cited guidelines, antiepileptic drugs are "Recommended for neuropathic pain." As per the cited guideline "Lamotrigine (Lamictal, generic available) has been proven to be moderately effective for treatment of trigeminal neuralgia, HIV, and central post- stroke pain". She reported right arm pain, neck pain, and headaches. The injured worker was diagnosed as having carpal tunnel syndrome, right shoulder pain, cervical disc disorder, and spasm of muscle. Treatment to date has included physical therapy, bilateral carpal tunnel surgery, right shoulder surgery, psychotherapy, and medication. Currently, the injured worker complains of depression, neck pain, and shoulder pain. Physical examination of the cervical region revealed tenderness on palpation, limited range of motion, positive Spurling sign. The patient has had psychiatric evaluation on 6/11/15 that revealed she had severe depression, anhedonia mood, insomnia, decreased appetite, weight loss and hopelessness. The patient has had history of suicidal attempt. The patient has had episodes of pulling hair and had noticeable area of hair loss. The patient has had history of repetitive stress from work. The patient's surgical history includes bilateral CTR and shoulder surgery and cervical fusion in 2001. The patient had a history and significant objective findings of neuropathic pain in addition to significant psychiatric symptoms that would be benefitted by Lamotrigine 100mg #30. The request for prescription of Lamotrigine 100mg #30 is medically necessary and appropriate for this patient at this time.