

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0144489		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/06/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/10/1998
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/02/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/25/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/24/2015

### 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: North Carolina

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 61-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 9-10-98. In an office visit note dated 6-15-15, the physician notes the injured worker underwent an epidural injection at C3-C4 on 6-4-15 and has demonstrated a level of improvement. In an office visit note dated 4-13-15, the treating physician notes the injured worker has had multiple cervical surgeries. He had an epidural injection at C3-C4 on 1-5-15 with symptom resolution reported at approximately 70% for more than 3 months. He also has carpal tunnel syndrome and is status post carpal tunnel release in the early 1990's and has recurrent symptoms. Tinel's sign is positive with 2 point sensory at 15mm. The plan notes that he is a candidate to undergo revision left carpal tunnel release. Work status is not noted. The requested treatment is Carisoprodol 350mg #40 for a 10-day supply, authorization for 6 months.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Carisoprodol 350mg #40 for 10 day supply, Auth for 6 months: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Carisoprodol (Soma).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines muscle relaxants Page(s): 63-65.

**Decision rationale:** The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on muscle relaxants states: Recommend non-sedating muscle relaxants with caution as a second-line option for short-term treatment of acute exacerbations in patients with chronic LBP. (Chou, 2007) (Mens, 2005) (Van Tulder, 1998) (van Tulder, 2003) (van Tulder, 2006) (Schnitzer, 2004) (See, 2008) Muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility. However, in most LBP cases, they show no benefit beyond NSAIDs in pain and overall improvement. In addition, there is no additional benefit shown in combination with NSAIDs. Efficacy appears to diminish over time, and prolonged use of some medications in this class may lead to dependence. (Homik, 2004) (Chou, 2004) This medication is not intended for long-term use per the California MTUS. The medication has not been prescribed for the flare-up of chronic low back pain. This is not an approved use for the medication. For these reasons, criteria for the use of this medication have not been met. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.