

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0196415		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/12/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/24/1997
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/25/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/25/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/06/2015

### 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:

This is a 65 year old male patient, who sustained an industrial injury on September 24, 1997. The diagnoses include low back pain, long-term use of other medications, carpal tunnel syndrome, constipation which was opiate induced, back pain, lumbar stenosis, and adjustment reaction with prolonged depressive reaction, incontinence of feces and urinary incontinence. According to progress note dated September 22, 2015, he had complaints of neck, right arm, left elbow and low back pain with increased neuropathic pain in both legs. The patient had significant increase in neuropathic pain leg and lower back. The TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator) unit helped the patient decreased opiate use. He had urinary and fecal incontinence. The physical exam revealed the abdomen as non-distended, antalgic gait and ambulate with cane. The medications list includes Cymbalta, Naprelan, Lyrica, lorazepam, Opana, Flector patches and Senna S for opiate induced constipation. He has had urine drug screen on 4/7/15 with consistent findings. He has had TENS for this injury. The RFA (request for authorization) dated July 23, 2015, the following treatments were requested a prescription for Senna-S 120 Tablets. The UR (utilization review board) denied certification on September 30, 2015; for a prescription for Senna-S 120 Tablets.

## IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Senna-S #120 with 1 refill:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Opioids, criteria for use.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Opioids, criteria for use. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Chapter: Pain (updated 10/09/15), Opioid-induced constipation treatment and Other Medical Treatment Guidelines Thompson Micromedex, FDA labeled indication for Docusate sodium, Herbal use Senna is stated to possess cathartic properties (leaf greater than fruit) and has been used traditionally for constipation.

**Decision rationale:** Senna-S #120 with 1 refill. Senna-S contains Docusate sodium and senna. Per the cited guidelines "3) Initiating Therapy (a) Intermittent pain: Start with a short- acting opioid trying one medication at a time. (d) Prophylactic treatment of constipation should be initiated." According to the Thompson Micromedex FDA labeled indication for Docusate includes constipation care. According to the Thompson Micromedex Senna is stated to possess cathartic properties (leaf greater than fruit) and has been used traditionally for constipation. The medications list includes opioid-opana, which may cause constipation. However, a rationale for the use of a product with a combination of medicines for constipation versus a single medication for constipation is not specified in the records provided. The response to Senna or docusate alone, is not specified in the records provided. The medical necessity of Senna-S #120 with 1 refill is not fully established for this patient, therefore is not medically necessary.