

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0205016		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/21/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	03/01/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/08/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/14/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/19/2015

### 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: Neurology, Pain Management

### 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 50 year old female who sustained an industrial injury 03-01-09. A review of the medical records reveals the injured worker is undergoing treatment for complex regional pain syndrome. Medical records (09-28-15) reveal the injured worker complains of right wrist and arm pain, as well as psyche issues. Pain is noted to be "severe" over the upper extremities on the right side. The pain is not rated. The physical exam (09-28-15) reveals right upper extremity is sensitive to touch, tenderness to palpation on the shoulder, and arm, and all other body areas. Prior treatment includes a spinal cord stimulator, and medications including hydromorphone, Tizanidine, duloxetine, and ibuprofen. The original utilization review (10-14-15) non certified the request for Hydromorphone 16mg ER #30. The documentation supports the injured worker has been on hydromorphone since at least 03-26-15.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Hydromorphone 16mg ER, 1 tablet daily, #30:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Opioids.

**Decision rationale:** The medical records report ongoing pain that is helped subjectively by continued use of opioid. The medical records do not indicate or document any formal opioid risk mitigation tool use or assessment or indicate use of UDS or other risk tool. ODG supports ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Pain assessment should include: current pain; the least reported pain over the period since last assessment; average pain; intensity of pain after taking the opioid; how long it takes for pain relief; and how long pain relief lasts. Satisfactory response to treatment may be indicated by the patient's decreased pain, increased level of function, or improved quality of life. Information from family members or other caregivers should be considered in determining the patient's response to treatment. The 4 A's for Ongoing Monitoring: Four domains have been proposed as most relevant for ongoing monitoring of chronic pain patients on opioids: pain relief, side effects, physical and psychosocial functioning, and the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or nonadherent) drug-related behaviors. These domains have been summarized as the "4 A's" (analgesia, activities of daily living, adverse side effects, and aberrant drug-taking behaviors). The monitoring of these outcomes over time should affect therapeutic decisions and provide a framework for documentation of the clinical use of these controlled drugs. Given the medical records do not document such ongoing monitoring; the medical records do not support the continued use of opioids such as hydromorphone. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.