

Case Number:	CM15-0021905		
Date Assigned:	02/11/2015	Date of Injury:	10/10/2008
Decision Date:	03/31/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/13/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/04/2015

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: Maryland, Texas, Virginia

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Allergy and Immunology, Rheumatology

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 58 year old female, who sustained a work related injury on 10/10/08. The diagnoses have included lumbosacral neuritis/radiculitis, post lumbar laminectomy syndrome and chronic low back pain. Treatments to date have included 3 epidural steroid injections (without much relief), oral medications, lumbar spine surgery, physical therapy and home exercises. In the PR-2 dated 12/23/14, the injured worker complains of low back pain with numbness down into legs. On 1/13/15, Utilization Review non-certified a request for Lunesta 2mg., #30. The California MTUS, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, were cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lunesta 2 mg, thirty count: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Chronic Pain, insomnia, Mental Illness, Eszopicolone (Lunesta)

Decision rationale: MTUS is silent specifically regarding eszopicolone (Lunesta), therefore other guidelines were utilized. ODG states regarding Eszopicolone, "Not recommended for long-term use, but recommended for short-term use. See Insomnia treatment. See also the Pain Chapter. Recommend limiting use of hypnotics to three weeks maximum in the first two months of injury only, and discourage use in the chronic phase." For insomnia ODG recommends that Pharmacological agents should only be used after careful evaluation of potential causes of sleep disturbance. Failure of sleep disturbance to resolve in a 7 to 10 day period may indicate a psychiatric and/or medical illness. (Lexi-Comp, 2008) Primary insomnia is generally addressed pharmacologically. Secondary insomnia may be treated with pharmacological and/or psychological measures. The specific component of insomnia should be addressed: (a) Sleep onset; (b) Sleep maintenance; (c) Sleep quality; & (d) Next-day functioning. Medical records do not indicate patient's sleep hygiene or the need for variance from the guidelines, such as a) Wake at the same time everyday; (b) Maintain a consistent bedtime; (c) Exercise regularly (not within 2 to 4 hours of bedtime); (d) Perform relaxing activities before bedtime; (e) Keep your bedroom quiet and cool; (f) Do not watch the clock; (g) Avoid caffeine and nicotine for at least six hours before bed; (h) Only drink in moderation; & (i) Avoid napping. The medical records do not indicate what components of insomnia has been addressed, treated with conservative measures, and the results of those conservative treatments. As written, the medications is for long term use. As such, the request for Lunesta 2mg #30 is not medically necessary.