

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0029472		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/23/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/07/2005
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/07/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/05/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/18/2015

### 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: New Jersey, Michigan, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine

### 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 male who sustained a work related injury on February 7, 2005, injuring his cervical spine and lower spine. He was diagnosed with a cervical injury with disc protrusions, lumbar sprain with disc protrusions, bilateral upper and lower extremity radiculopathy. Treatment included a cervical fusion and discectomy, degenerative disc disease, bracing, pain medications, and muscle relaxants. Currently, he complained of ongoing back pain, stiffness and spasms with muscle rigidity. On February 5, 2015 a request for one prescription for Ultracet 37.5/325mg twice a day, quantity #50 over one month for evidence of gradual tapering was modified to one prescription for Ultracet 37.5/325mg twice a day, quantity #60 by Utilization Review, noting the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Ultracet 37.5/325mg #60:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 83.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Tramadol  
Page(s): 113.

**Decision rationale:** According to MTUS guidelines, Ultracet (Tramadol) is a central acting analgesic that may be used in chronic pain. Ultracet is a synthetic opioid affecting the central nervous system. It is not classified as a controlled substance by the DEA. It is not recommended as a first-line oral analgesic. There is no documentation about the efficacy and adverse reaction profile of previous use of Ultracet. There is no documentation for recent urine drug screen to assess compliance. Therefore, the prescription of Ultracet 37.5/325mg #60 is not medically necessary.