

Case Number:	CM15-0030362		
Date Assigned:	02/24/2015	Date of Injury:	03/09/2007
Decision Date:	04/03/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/30/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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: Indiana

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 39 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 1/14/2004. He reports a low back injury while lifting a large heavy object. Diagnoses include status post lumbar discectomy and disc replacement on 11/2/2009, sciatica, opiate addiction and depression with suicidal ideation. Treatments to date include 10 sessions of physical therapy with work hardening, TENS (transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation) and medication management. A progress note from the treating provider dated 1/13/2015 indicates the injured worker reported low back pain with radicular symptoms. On 1/29/2015, Utilization Review modified the request for Baclofen 10 mg #30 with 1 refill to #15 with no refills, citing MTUS.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Baclofen 10 mg QTY 30 with (1) refill: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle relaxants (for pain) Page(s): 63-64.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle Relaxants Page(s): 63-64.

Decision rationale: Baclofen is classified as a muscle relaxant. MTUS 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. 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." Additionally, MTUS states "Baclofen (Lioresal, generic available): The mechanism of action is blockade of the pre- and post-synaptic GABAB receptors. It is recommended orally for the treatment of spasticity and muscle spasm related to multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries. Baclofen has been noted to have benefits for treating lancinating, paroxysmal neuropathic pain (trigeminal neuralgia, non-FDA approved). (ICSI, 2007)." The treating physician has not provided documentation of muscle spasms related to multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injuries. Additionally, the treating physician has not provided documentation of trials and failures of first line therapies. As such the request for Baclofen 10mg is not medically necessary.