

Case Number:	CM15-0031294		
Date Assigned:	02/24/2015	Date of Injury:	12/28/1991
Decision Date:	04/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/13/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/19/2015

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: California

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 70 year old female injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 12/28/1991. The diagnoses included systemic lupus erythematosus. The treating provider reported joint and muscle pain along with some nausea. Also noted was fatigue with some chronic mild dyspnea. On exam there was tenderness to palpation in the extremities. The Utilization Review Determination on 2/13/2015 non-certified Plaquenil 200mg BID (unknown quantity).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Plaquenil 200mg BID (unknown quantity): Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.drugs.com/plaquenil.html>.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines do not address this medication. A review of the records documents that this individual has been diagnosed with System Lupus Erythematoses (SLE) for some time. Paquenil is a standard drug utilized to treat this disease on a long term basis.

Independent Medical Review does not address the issue of causation. The Plaquenil 200mg BID (unknown quantity) is medically necessary and appropriate for this individual's diagnosis of SLE.