

Case Number:	CM15-0036304		
Date Assigned:	03/04/2015	Date of Injury:	05/07/2005
Decision Date:	04/17/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/31/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/26/2015

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: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 44 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 5/7/05. He subsequently suffered a stroke and reports ongoing pain in the neck, right hip and right shoulder. The injured worker has undergone spine surgery. Treatments to date have included physical therapy and prescription pain medications. On 1/31/15, Utilization Review non-certified a request for 1 Sleep study and Norco 5/300, #60. The Sleep study and Norco were denied based on ODG guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Sleep study: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Pain, polysomnography.

Decision rationale: The injured worker is being treated for chronic neck pain status post cervical fusion and associated chronic insomnia following CVA with right hemiparesis. Pharmacologic treatment has included gabapentin, hydrocodone, trazodone, baclofen and Ambien. Request is being made for continuation of Norco 2 tabs daily and polysomnography for evaluation of insomnia. Records indicate at least 6 months of treatment with sedative hypnotics. Notation on 2/20/15 indicates greater than 9 years of sleep disorder described as difficulty falling asleep despite multiple medications and associated short term memory impairment with witnessed episodes of apnea. ODG guidelines provide very specific criteria for polysomnography of which includes excessive daytime somnolence, insomnia and related breathing disorder. Indications for polysomnography have been met and request is therefore medically necessary.

Norco 5/300, #60: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids CRITERIA FOR USE OF OPIOIDS Page(s): 76-80.

Decision rationale: The injured worker is being treated for chronic neck pain status post cervical fusion and associated chronic insomnia following CVA with right hemiparesis. Pharmacologic pain management has included gabapentin, hydrocodone, trazodone, baclofen and Ambien. Request is being made for continuation of Norco 2 tabs daily and polysomnography. Records indicate significant pain relief and increased function with Norco use twice daily. MTUS guidelines indicates recommendation for continuation of opioids with return to work or improved function. Guidelines have been met and the request for Norco is therefore medically necessary.