

Case Number:	CM15-0038325		
Date Assigned:	03/09/2015	Date of Injury:	10/01/2003
Decision Date:	04/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/31/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/02/2015

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:

The 44-year-old female injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 10/1/2003. The diagnoses were cervicalgia, lumbago, lumbar spinal stenosis, lumbar disc displacement and lumbosacral neuritis. The diagnostic study was lumbar magnetic resonance imaging. The treatments were medications. The treating provider reported intermittent neck and low back pain that increased during activities. On exam, there was tenderness of the cervical spine and muscle tightness. There was decreased range of motion to the lumbar spine with tenderness and muscle tightness. Treatment under consideration includes Cyclobenzaprine with 3-month refills.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cyclobenzaprine 10mg, 1-2 tablets as needed, Qty 60, with 3 months refill: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle Relaxants Page(s): 22, 63-64.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Muscle relaxants, pg 128.

Decision rationale: Guidelines do not recommend long-term use of this muscle relaxant for this chronic injury. Additionally, the efficacy in clinical trials has been inconsistent and most studies are small and of short duration. These medications may be useful for chronic musculoskeletal pain, but there are no long-term studies of their effectiveness or safety. Submitted reports have not adequately demonstrated the indication or medical need for this treatment and there is no report of significant clinical findings, acute flare-up or new injury to support for its long-term use. There is no report of functional improvement resulting from its previous treatment to support further use as the patient remains unchanged. The Cyclobenzaprine 10mg, 1-2 tablets as needed, Qty 60, with 3 months refill is not medically necessary and appropriate.