

Case Number:	CM15-0041102		
Date Assigned:	03/11/2015	Date of Injury:	10/04/2010
Decision Date:	04/14/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/03/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/04/2015

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: Arizona, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 year 56 old male injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 10/4/2010. The diagnoses were bilateral carpal tunnel syndromes. The diagnostic studies were electromyographies of both upper extremities. The treatments were medications and left carpal tunnel release. The treating provider reported knee, shoulder, hand and chronic back pain.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Zolpidem ER tab 12.5mg #30: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG- pain chapter and insomnia- pg 64.

Decision rationale: The MTUS guidelines do not comment on insomnia. According to the ODG guidelines, insomnia medications recommend that treatment be based on the etiology, with the medications. Pharmacological agents should only be used after careful evaluation of potential

causes of sleep disturbance. Failure of sleep disturbance to resolve in a 7 to 10 day period may indicate a psychiatric and/or medical illness. Primary insomnia is generally addressed pharmacologically. Secondary insomnia may be treated with pharmacological and/or psychological measures. Zolpidem is indicated for the short-term treatment of insomnia with difficulty of sleep onset (7-10 days). In this case, the claimant had used the medication for over 9 months. The etiology of sleep disturbance was not defined or further evaluated. There was no mention of other behavioral or physical interventions to aid in sleep. Long-term use of Zolpidem has an increased rate or morbidity. Continued and chronic use of Zolpidem is not medically necessary.