

Case Number:	CM15-0041494		
Date Assigned:	03/11/2015	Date of Injury:	05/19/2014
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/28/2015
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: New York

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease

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 23 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 5/19/14. He subsequently reported low back pain. Diagnostic testing has included MRIs. Diagnoses include lumbosacral sprain with radicular symptoms. Treatments to date have included physical therapy, modified work duty and prescription pain medications. The injured worker continues to experience back pain with radiation to the extremities. A request for Ultracet medication were made by the treating physician.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ultracet 37.5mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Medications for chronic pain.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids On-Going Management Page(s): 78 - 79.

Decision rationale: The patient is a 23 year old male with an injury on 05/19/2014. He has low back pain. MTUS, Chronic Pain guidelines criteria for long term, chronic treatment with opiates

include documentation of functional improvement with respect to the ability to do activities of daily living or work and monitoring for efficacy, adverse effects and abnormal drug seeking behavior. The documentation provided for review does not meet these criteria. 60 tablets of Ultracet are not medically necessary.