

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0049151		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/23/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/09/2002
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/06/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/09/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/16/2015

### 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 injured worker is a 60 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on May 9, 2002. He has reported injury to the back and has been diagnosed with failed right inguinal hernia repair with concomitant difficulties and chronic pain syndrome. Treatment has included medications and [REDACTED]. Currently the injured worker had tenderness to the right groin that radiates into the right testicle and radiates to the back across the back to the low hip. The treatment request included a detox program.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Detox Program:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Detoxification.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pain (Chronic), Detoxification/Weaning, scheduled medications (general guidelines).

**Decision rationale:** Most commonly recommended when there is evidence of substance misuse or abuse, evidence that medication is not efficacious, or evidence of excessive complications related to use. See Substance abuse (substance related disorders, tolerance, dependence, addiction) for definitions. Detoxification is defined as a medical intervention that manages a patient through withdrawal syndromes. While the main indication as related to substance-related disorders is evidence of aberrant drug behaviors, other indications for detoxification have been suggested. These include the following: (1) Intolerable side effects; (2) Lack of response to current pain medication treatment (particularly when there is evidence of increasingly escalating doses of substances known for dependence); (3) Evidence of hyperalgesia; (4) Lack of functional improvement; and/or (5) Refractory comorbid psychiatric illness. It can therefore be seen that a recommendation for detoxification does not necessarily imply a diagnosis of addiction, or of substance-related disorder. There are no specific guidelines that have been developed for detoxification for patients with chronic pain. This intervention does not constitute complete substance abuse treatment. The process of detoxification includes evaluation, stabilization, and preparation of the patient for further treatment that should be specifically tailored to each patient's diagnostic needs. Complete withdrawal of all medications is not always recommended, although evidence of abuse and/or dependence strengthens the rationale for such. The Official Disability Guidelines state that prior to enrolling in a program, a provider must have a clearly stated rationale identifying why the program as required and that patient's considered for weaning should undergo an assessment of their general medical, psychiatric, surgical and pain treatment history, with education regarding rationale for weaning, symptoms and potential adjunctive agents or alternative treatments. The medical record lacks the above documentation. Detox Program is not medically necessary.