

Case Number:	CM15-0049763		
Date Assigned:	03/23/2015	Date of Injury:	04/20/2000
Decision Date:	05/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	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: New Jersey, Michigan, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 56 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 4/20/2000. The current diagnoses are headaches/facial pain. According to the progress report dated 12/30/2014, the injured worker complains increased frequency of headaches. He was able to manage with the use of oxygen and now he is waking up three times a night due to his headaches. The current medications are Lyrica, OxyContin, and Norco. Treatment to date has included medication management, oxygen, and Botox injection. The Botox injection was done October 2013; this was extremely beneficial for his migraines until recently. The plan of care includes Botox.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Botox 155 units: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Botulinum toxin (Botox; Myobloc).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Botulinum toxin Page(s): 25-26.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS guidelines, Botulinum toxin is not “Not generally recommended for chronic pain disorders, but recommended for cervical dystonia. See more details below. Not recommended for the following: tension-type headache; migraine headache; fibromyositis; chronic neck pain; myofascial pain syndrome; & trigger point injections.” Several recent studies have found no statistical support for the use of Botulinum toxin A (BTXA) for any of the following: The evidence is mixed for migraine headaches. This RCT found that both botulinum toxin typeA (BoNTA) and divalproex sodium (DVPX) significantly reduced disability associated with migraine, and BoNTA had a favorable tolerability profile compared with DVPX. (Blumenfeld, 2008) In this RCT of episodic migraine patients, low-dose injections of BoNTA into the frontal, temporal, and/or glabellar muscle regions were not more effective than placebo. (Saper, 2007) Botulinum neurotoxin is probably ineffective in episodic migraine and chronic tension-type headache (Level B). (Naumann, 2008) Myofascial analgesic pain relief as compared to saline. (Qerama, 2006) Use as a specific treatment for myofascial cervical pain as compared to saline. (Ojala, 2006) (Ferrante, 2005) (Wheeler, 1998) Injection in myofascial trigger points as compared to dry needling or local anesthetic injections. (Kamanli, 2005) (Graboski, 2005). In summary and according to MTUS guidelines, Botulinum toxin is not generally recommended for chronic pain disorders, but recommended for cervical dystonia. It is not recommended for migraine headache, tension headache, chronic neck pain, trigger point injection, thoracic pain and myofacial pain. In addition, there are no controlled studies supporting the use of Botox for this patient condition. Therefore, the request for Botox injection is not medically necessary.