

Case Number:	CM15-0050333		
Date Assigned:	03/23/2015	Date of Injury:	07/04/1997
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/05/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/17/2015

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 injured worker is a 58 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on July 4, 1997. The injured worker was diagnosed as having post lumbar laminectomy syndrome and lumbago. Treatment and diagnostic studies to date have included medication and surgery. A progress note dated February 9, 2015 provides the injured worker complains of back and hip pain. Her reports her pain is rated 7/10 and has sleep disturbance. Physical exam notes the injured worker's pain is worsening. There is cervical and lumbar tenderness with decreased range of motion (ROM). Plan includes injection, oral medication and diagnostic testing.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Toradol injection 60mg 2ml (given on the right gluteus muscle): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Toradol: Ketorolac (Toradol, generic available) Page(s): 70.

Decision rationale: The 58 year old patient complains of increased pain in back, hips and legs, rated at 7/10, as per progress report dated 02/09/15. The request is for TORADOL INJECTION 60 mg 2 ml (GIVEN ON THE RIGHT GLUTEUS MUSCLE). The RFA for the case is dated 02/26/15, and the patient's date of injury is 07/04/97. The patient is status post lumbar fusion and has been diagnosed with postlaminectomy lumbar syndrome, lumbago and low back pain, as per progress report dated 02/09/15. Medications included Norco, Oxycodone, Motrin and Toradol injection. The patient is permanently disabled, as per progress report dated 12/15/14. The MTUS Guidelines, page 70, states regarding Toradol: Ketorolac (Toradol, generic available): 10 mg. [Boxed Warning]: This medication is not indicated for minor or chronic painful conditions. Review of reports does not show any discussion regarding the use of Toradol injection other than for the patient's chronic pain. MTUS does not support Toradol for chronic pain. Academic Emergency Medicine, Vol 5, 118-122, "Intramuscular ketorolac vs oral ibuprofen in emergency department patients with acute pain" study demonstrated that there is no difference between the two and both provided comparable levels of analgesia in emergency patients presenting with moderate to severe pain. In this case, progress reports do not discuss prior Toradol injection. The treating physician does not explain why patient needs Toradol injection as opposed to oral NSAIDs, which provide comparable level of analgesia. Additionally, MTUS does not recommend this medication for "minor or chronic pain," and the available progress reports do not indicate that the current injection request is for an acute episode of pain. Hence, this request IS NOT medically necessary.