

Case Number:	CM15-0050518		
Date Assigned:	03/24/2015	Date of Injury:	02/24/1994
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/10/2015
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: Indiana

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 55 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 2/24/94. The documentation on 10/29/14, states that the injured worker went to the emergency department for a spinal headache after a pain shot trial. The documentation noted that a urine drug test was consistent with current therapy. The diagnoses have included lumbar degenerative disc disease with intractable low back pain secondary to industrial injury; failed back surgery syndrome lumbar secondary to industrial injury and bilateral lumbar radiculopathy secondary to industrial injury. The documentation from 2/15, noted that the urine drug test, utilization review and evaluation system (CURES) report are consistent with current therapy. The requested treatment is for retrospective urine drug screen collected 10/29/14, received 11/4/14 and run 12/1/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective Urine drug screen collected 10/29/14, received 11/4/14 and run 12/1/14:
Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 94-95. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)-urine drug testing.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids, Substance Abuse Page(s): 74-109. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation University of Michigan Health System Guidelines for Clinical Care: Managing Chronic Non-terminal Pain, Including Prescribing Controlled Substances (May 2009), pg 32 Established Patients Using a Controlled Substance.

Decision rationale: MTUS states that use of urine drug screening for illegal drugs should be considered before therapeutic trial of opioids are initiated. Documentation of misuse of medications (doctor-shopping, uncontrolled drug escalation, drug diversion) would indicate need for urine drug screening. There is insufficient documentation provided to suggest issues of abuse, addiction, or poor pain control by the treating physician. University of Michigan Health System Guidelines for Clinical Care: Managing Chronic Non-terminal Pain, Including Prescribing Controlled Substances (May 2009) recommends for stable patients without red flags "twice yearly urine drug screening for all chronic non-malignant pain patients receiving opioids; once during January-June, and another July-December." The patient has been on chronic opioid therapy. However, the employee had an ER visit due to a severe spinal headache after a pain shot trial. Part of the diagnosis is to ensure the employee was not taking any other drugs that might have caused the headache. Therefore, the request for Retrospective Urine drug screen collected 10/29/14, received 11/4/14 and run 12/1/14 is medically necessary.