

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0051842		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/25/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/11/2001
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/01/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/11/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/19/2015

### 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 61-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 1/11/01. The injured worker reported symptoms in the bilateral upper and lower extremities, neck, shoulders, back hips and buttocks. The injured worker was diagnosed as having chronic left wrist pain, lumbar back pain with radiculopathy, right hip pain, left lower extremity paresthesia, left leg and wrist neuropathic pain, chronic depression, lumbar spinal stenosis and lumbar degenerative facet disease. Treatments to date have included oral pain medication, topical patch, walker, wrist brace, and physical therapy. Currently, the injured worker complains of pain in the bilateral upper and lower extremities, neck, shoulders, back hips and buttocks. The plan of care was for medication prescriptions and a follow up appointment later.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Oxycontin 40mg #30:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 78.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 75-81.

**Decision rationale:** According to MTUS guidelines, Oxycodone as well as other short acting opioids are indicated for intermittent or breakthrough pain (page 75). It can be used in acute post operative pain. It is not nor did recommended for chronic pain of longterm use as prescribe in this case. In addition and according to MTUS guidelines, ongoing use of opioids should follow specific rules: “(a) Prescriptions from a single practitioner taken as directed, and all prescriptions from a single pharmacy. (b) The lowest possible dose should be prescribed to improve pain and function. (c) Office: Ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Pain assessment should include current pain; the least reported pain over the period since last assessment; average pain; intensity of pain after taking the opioid; how long it takes for pain relief; and how long pain relief lasts. Satisfactory response to treatment may be indicated by the patient's decreased pain, increased level of function, or improved quality of life. Information from family members or other caregivers should be considered in determining the patient's response to treatment. The 4 A's for Ongoing Monitoring: Four domains have been proposed as most relevant for ongoing monitoring of chronic pain patients on opioids: pain relief, side effects, physical and psychosocial functioning, and the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or non adherent) drug-related behaviors. These domains have been summarized as the "4 A's" (analgesia, activities of daily living, adverse side effects, and aberrant drug taking behaviors). The monitoring of these outcomes over time should affect therapeutic decisions and provide a framework.” Based on the patient chart, there is no clear rationale behind the use of high dose of opioids. There is no documentation of pain or functional improvement from previous use of Oxycontin. There is no documentation of breakthrough pain. Therefore, the prescription of OXYCONTIN 40 MG #30 is not medically necessary.

**Oxycontin 80mg #120:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 78.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines opioids Page(s): 75-81.

**Decision rationale:** According to MTUS guidelines, Oxycodone as well as other short acting opioids are indicated for intermittent or breakthrough pain (page 75). It can be used in acute post operative pain. It is not nor did recommended for chronic pain of long-term use as prescribe in this case. In addition and according to MTUS guidelines, ongoing use of opioids should follow specific rules: “(a) Prescriptions from a single practitioner taken as directed, and all prescriptions from a single pharmacy. (b) The lowest possible dose should be prescribed to improve pain and function. (c) Office: Ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Pain assessment should include current pain; the least reported pain over the period since last assessment; average pain; intensity of pain after taking the opioid; how long it takes for pain relief; and how long pain relief lasts. Satisfactory response to treatment may be indicated by the patient's decreased pain, increased level of

function, or improved quality of life. Information from family members or other caregivers should be considered in determining the patient's response to treatment. The 4 A's for Ongoing Monitoring: Four domains have been proposed as most relevant for ongoing monitoring of chronic pain patients on opioids: pain relief, side effects, physical and psychosocial functioning, and the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or non adherent) drug-related behaviors. These domains have been summarized as the "4 A's" (analgesia, activities of daily living, adverse side effects, and aberrant drug taking behaviors). The monitoring of these outcomes over time should affect therapeutic decisions and provide a framework." Based on the patient chart, there is no clear rationale behind the use of high dose of opioids. There is no documentation of pain or functional improvement from previous use of Oxycontin. There is no documentation of breakthrough pain. Therefore, the prescription of OXYCONTIN 80MG #120 is not medically necessary.