

Case Number:	CM15-0054455		
Date Assigned:	03/27/2015	Date of Injury:	12/04/2009
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/21/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/23/2015

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: Maryland

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 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 38-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on December 4, 2009. He has reported lower back pain and leg pain. Diagnoses have included lumbar spine strain, lumbar spine disc herniation, lumbar spine radiculopathy, and chronic pain syndrome. Treatment to date has included medications, stretching, H wave therapy, spinal fusion, and imaging studies. A progress note dated January 18, 2015 indicates a chief complaint of worsening lower back pain radiating to the left leg. The treating physician documented a plan of care that included medications.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Kadian 10mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 93.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Ongoing management Page(s): 78-80.

Decision rationale: Kadian 10mg #60 is not medically necessary per the MTUS Guidelines. The MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state that a 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. The MTUS does not support ongoing opioid use without improvement in function or pain. The documentation submitted reveals that the patient has been on morphine but continues to experience significant pain. There is no objective significant evidence of functional improvement therefore the request for continued Kadian is not medically necessary.