

Case Number:	CM15-0059298		
Date Assigned:	04/03/2015	Date of Injury:	05/13/2010
Decision Date:	05/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/02/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/30/2015

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: District of Columbia, Virginia
Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal 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 40-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 5/13/2010. She reported low back pain after a day of heavy lifting, twisting and weed eating. The injured worker was diagnosed as having low back pain with lumbar radiculopathy and lumbar disc herniation. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included. In a progress note dated 1/30/2015, the injured worker complains of low back pain. The treating physician is requesting DNA testing.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

DNA testing, one time Qty: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Cytokine DNA testing for pain. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Genetic testing for potential opioid abuse.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 9792
Page(s): 42.

Decision rationale: Per MTUS: [REDACTED] DNA Testing for Pain Not recommended. There is no current evidence to support the use of cytokine DNA testing for the diagnosis of pain, including chronic pain. Scientific research on cytokines is rapidly evolving. There is vast and growing scientific evidence base concerning the biochemistry of inflammation and it is commonly understood that inflammation plays a key role in injuries and chronic pain. Cellular mechanisms are ultimately involved in the inflammatory process and healing, and the molecular machinery involves cellular signaling proteins or agents called cytokines. Given rapid developments in cytokine research, novel applications have emerged and one application is cytokine DNA signature testing which has been used as a specific test for certain pain diagnoses such as fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome. The specific test for cytokine DNA testing is performed by the [REDACTED]. ([www.\[REDACTED\].com](http://www.[REDACTED].com)). Two articles were found on the website. However, these articles did not meet the minimum standards for inclusion for evidence-based review. (Gavin, 2007) (Gillis, 2007) This patient had issues with chronic pain and these did not improve despite multiple methods. As per cited guidelines, the DNA testing would not be recommended.