

Case Number:	CM15-0080475		
Date Assigned:	06/18/2015	Date of Injury:	09/10/2014
Decision Date:	07/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/27/2015

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: North Carolina
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 57-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 09/10/2014. She has reported subsequent low back and right knee pain and was diagnosed with low back strain with left lower extremity radiculitis, right knee sprain and internal derangement of the right knee. Treatment to date has included medication and physical therapy. In a progress note dated 02/26/2015, the injured worker complained of right knee, left knee and back pain with numbness, tingling and weakness through the legs. Objective findings were notable for moderate distress secondary to pain, medial joint line tenderness, tightness along the IT band, palpable trigger points along the gluteus medius and lumbar quadrates region, positive crepitus with passive range of motion of the knee, decreased range of motion on the right, paresthesias along the lateral aspect of the right leg, decreased strength with hip flexion, abduction, adduction and extension bilaterally, decreased strength with knee extension and flexion on the right and left and ankle plantar flexion, dorsiflexion, inversion, eversion and extensor hallucis longus, positive bilaterally McMurray's test and patellar compression test and a right sided antalgic gait. A request for authorization of Cyclobenzaprine was submitted.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cyclobenzaprine 5mg #30: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines muscle relaxants Page(s): 63-65.

Decision rationale: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on muscle relaxants states: Recommend non-sedating muscle relaxants with caution as a second-line option for short-term treatment of acute exacerbations in patients with chronic LBP. (Chou, 2007) (Mens, 2005) (Van Tulder, 1998) (van Tulder, 2003) (van Tulder, 2006) (Schnitzer, 2004) (See, 2008) Muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility. However, in most LBP cases, they show no benefit beyond NSAIDs in pain and overall improvement. In addition, there is no additional benefit shown in combination with NSAIDs. Efficacy appears to diminish over time, and prolonged use of some medications in this class may lead to dependence. (Homik, 2004) (Chou, 2004) This medication is not intended for long-term use per the California MTUS. The medication has not been prescribed for the flare-up of chronic low back pain. This is not an approved use for the medication. For these reasons, criteria for the use of this medication have not been met. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.