

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0082830		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	05/05/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/06/2006
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/05/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/01/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/30/2015

### 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: Georgia

Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain Management

### 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 52-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 6/6/06. He reported pain in his left knee and back due to being trampled by an animal. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbago, left knee pain and psoriasis. Treatment to date has included chiropractic treatments, physical therapy, Taclonex and Desonide cream. As of the PR2 dated 2/23/15, the injured worker reports continued psoriasis despite topical creams. The treating physician requested a Humira 40mg starter pack and maintenance. On 3/17/15, the injured worker was seen in the emergency department for severe pain and itching.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Humira 40mg starter pack and maintenance:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; National Guideline Clearinghouse.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Physician Desk Reference.

**Decision rationale:** Humira 40 mg starter pack and maintenance is not medically necessary. The ODG and CA MTUs guidelines do not address this medication. According to the physician desk reference Humira is an anti-inflammatory medication that reduces the effects of a substance in the body that can cause inflammation. Humira is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Humira can lower blood cells that help your body fight infections and help your blood to clot. Additionally, anaphylaxis or serious allergic reactions may occur. The FDA issued a black box warning instructing prescribers to screen and monitor potential patients more carefully. The medical records do not provide evidence that the patient was appropriately screened as a candidate for this medication. Additionally there is no plan outlined for monitoring this patient on this medication, which has potentially harmful effects; therefore, the requested medication is not medically necessary.