

Case Number:	CM14-0116642		
Date Assigned:	08/04/2014	Date of Injury:	03/18/1997
Decision Date:	10/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/25/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 62 year old female injured on 03/18/97 when she slipped and fell in the bathtub injuring her spine, buttocks, head, elbow, and arms she underwent anterior cervical fusion from C5 through C7, with post-operative development of Brown-Sequard syndrome. She was decompressed posteriorly one week later from C3 through C7. Residual disability was extensive and primarily resulting from an injury to the spinal cord at cervical level. Neurological problems resulting from damaged spinal cord included paresis, sensory abnormalities, bowel and bladder problems, pain, and abnormal gait. Diagnosis included C5 Asia-D quadriplegia worse on the left with multiple neurological symptoms, memory deficit, chronic pain, and reflex sympathetic dystrophy of the right leg. Clinical note dated 04/24/14 indicated the patient had diagnosis of major depression and anxiety disorder. Clinical note dated 05/24/14 indicated the injured worker complains of neck pain with current pain level rated as 6-8/10. The injured worker indicated that the medication was helping a lot. The injured worker indicated that the neck had to be extended in order to be comfortable when sitting. Her pain was global and the right arm was worst. Physical examination of the cervical spine revealed very limited range of motion single axis. There was tenderness to palpation in bilateral trapezius, and upper quadrant muscles. Bilateral shoulder elevation is 100 degrees with motor of 5/5 on the right and 4+ on the left. Medications include Ambien 12.5mg, Celebrex 200mg, Zanaflex 2mg, Opana ER 40mg, Percocet 10/325mg, Provigil 200mg, Maxalt 10mg, and Requip 0.25mg. The request is to assess the medical necessity of the medication Requip 0.25mg tab.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Requip (Ropinirole HCL) 0.25mg tablets: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation FDA approved labeling information

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Dailymed, United States National Library of Medicine

Decision rationale: CAMTUS/ACOEM Guidelines and Official Disability Guidelines do not address this issue. In the DailyMed of the United States National Library of Medicine, Ropinirole, a dopamine agonist, is indicated for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (PD) and moderate-to-severe primary Restless Legs Syndrome. There is no indication in the clinical documentation that the patient has restless syndrome. The injured worker has been on Requip since 2011 but symptoms, pain relief or efficacy of medication, or any possible side effects were not addressed in the clinical notes. As such, the request for Requip (Ropinirole HCL) 0.25mg tab is not medically necessary.