

Case Number:	CM14-0116959		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	04/21/2007
Decision Date:	10/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/17/2014
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 Physical Medicine & rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in Oklahoma. 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 50-year-old female who reported an injury on 05/21/2007. The mechanism of injury was not submitted for clinical review. The diagnoses included analgesic induced constipation and gastropathy secondary to chronic medication use. Previous treatments included medication. Within the clinical note dated 06/09/2014 it was reported the injured worker complained of abdominal pain. The injured worker reported Amitiza had been helping with bloating. The physical examination, the provider noted the injured worker had a regular heart rate, no edema. The request submitted is for gabapentin, clonidine. However, a rationale is not provided for clinical review. The Request for Authorization was not submitted for clinical review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Gabapentin 400 mg #180: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Anti-epilepsy drugs.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Gabapentin Page(s): 49.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS Guidelines show gabapentin has been shown to be effective for the treatment for diabetic painful neuropathy and post herpetic neuralgia and has been considered as a first line treatment for neuropathic pain. The provider failed to document an adequate and complete pain assessment within the documentation. There is lack of documentation indicating the efficacy of the medication as evidence by significant functional improvement. The request submitted failed to provide the frequency of the medication. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Clonidine 0.1 mg #21: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Diabetes, Hypertensive treatment.

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines recommend hypertension treatment for blood pressure and diabetics to be controlled to levels of 140/80. Recommendations include the injured worker to have either uncontrolled hypertension or being treated for evaluated elevated blood pressure. Hypertension is not only more prevalent in diabetes type 2 than in general population. There is lack of documentation indicating the injured worker is treated for hypertension. The provider failed to document a complete and adequate physical examination. There is lack of documentation indicating the efficacy of the medication as evidence by significant functional improvement. The request submitted failed to provide the frequency of the medication. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.