

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0119952		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/20/2001
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/08/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/21/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/30/2014

### 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 Massachusetts. 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:

According to the documents available for review, the patient is an injured female worker. The date of injury is April 20, 2001. The patient sustained an injury to the lumbar spine. The patient carries the current diagnosis of lumbago, lumbar degenerative disc disease, and sciatica. The specific mechanism of injury was not noted. The patient currently complains of severe lumbar back pain and leg pain worsens with movement. The patient is maintained on multimodal pain medication regimen including Norco. A request for Norco was denied.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Norco 10/325 MG #180:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids, On-Going Management Page(s): 74-97.

**Decision rationale:** There is no current documentation of baseline pain, pain score with use of opioids, functional improvement on current regimen, side effects or review of potentially aberrant drug taking behaviors as outlined in the MTUS. Therefore, at this time, the requirements for treatment have not been met and medical necessity has not been established.

