

Case Number:	CM14-0121160		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2014	Date of Injury:	12/11/2008
Decision Date:	10/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/31/2014

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 General Surgery and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

This 46 year old male sustained an injury 12/11/08. A lumbar fusion was done at L5-S1 on 6/5/10. An SCS was tried and his pain increased from this. Pain is worsened with walking, car riding, and prolonged sitting. A psych evaluation was reported 6/13/13 was reported as indicating the patient as a marginally acceptable candidate for a SCS trial. As of 8/25/14, acupuncture has not been tried. The patient is awaiting approval of an intrathecal pain pump trial.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Trial for pain pump placement with 1 day stay: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Treatment Index (9th Edition Web 2011) on implantable drug-delivery systems

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Indications for Implantable drug-delivery systems: (Includes Intrathecal) Page(s): 52-54.

Decision rationale: The psych consultation as of 6/13/13 indicated that the patient did not have realistic expectations that benefit would occur with implantation despite any psychiatric comorbidity which did exist. It is unclear that there has or has not been evidence of pathology or that further surgical intervention appears to not be indicated. There are no contraindications. A

period of 6 month period conservatism has been documented. Per medical evidence-based Guidelines, these criteria must be met for an intrathecal pain pump trial to be seen as medically necessary.- "Used for the treatment of non-malignant (non-cancerous) pain with duration of greater than 6 months and all of the following criteria are met: 1. Documentation, in the medical record, of the failure of 6 months of other conservative treatment modalities (pharmacologic, surgical, psychologic or physical), if appropriate and not contraindicated; and2. Intractable pain secondary to a disease state with objective documentation of pathology in the medical record; and3. Further surgical intervention or other treatment is not indicated or likely to be effective; and4. Psychological evaluation has been obtained and evaluation states that the pain is not primarily psychologic in origin and that benefit would occur with implantation despite any psychiatric comorbidity; and5. No contraindications to implantation exist such as sepsis or coagulopathy; and6. A temporary trial of spinal (epidural or intrathecal) opiates has been successful prior to permanent implantation as defined by at least a 50% to 70% reduction in pain and documentation in the medical record of functional improvement and associated reduction in oral pain medication use. A temporary trial of intrathecal (intraspinial) infusion pumps is considered medically necessary only when criteria 1-5 above are met."