

Case Number:	CM14-0121770		
Date Assigned:	09/25/2014	Date of Injury:	12/24/2007
Decision Date:	10/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/01/2014

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 Family Medicine and is licensed to practice in Arizona. 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 patient is a 48 year old female with a date of injury on 12/24/2007. Diagnoses include carpal tunnel syndrome, enthesopathy of wrist, and ganglion of tendon sheath. Subjective complaints are of bilateral severe hand pain. Physical exam shows tenderness of right hand ganglion, painful thumb movement, and positive bilateral Tinel's and Phalen's. Medications include klonopin, Butrans patch, Tylenol #3, Norco, and topical voltaren. The documents indicate that the patient has been weaning her narcotic medications, but was having worsening pain due to the decrease in medication. With decreased medication the patient has to work less and is awoken with pain, and has difficulty with daily activities.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Zohydro ER 20 mg #56: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Pain

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines OPIOIDS, Page(s): , page(s) 74-96.

Decision rationale: The patient in question has been on chronic opioid therapy. CA Chronic Pain Guidelines has specific recommendations for the ongoing management of opioid therapy.

Clear evidence should be presented about the degree of analgesia, level of activity of daily living, adverse side effects, or aberrant drug taking behavior. For this patient, documentation shows stability on medication, increased functional ability, and no adverse side effects. Furthermore, documentation is present of MTUS opioid compliance guidelines including urine drug screen, attempts at weaning, and ongoing efficacy of medication. Therefore, the use of this medication is consistent with guidelines and is medically necessary for this patient.