

Case Number:	CM14-0128359		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2014	Date of Injury:	10/02/2001
Decision Date:	10/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/13/2014

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 and is licensed to practice in Texas and Ohio. 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 58-year-old male who reported an injury on 10/02/2001. The mechanism of injury was not provided. On 01/16/2014, the injured worker presented with low back pain. The diagnoses were lumbar disc degeneration, postlaminectomy syndrome of the lumbar region, lumbar spinal stenosis, and lumbosacral spondylosis without myelopathy. Current medications included Celebrex, Colace, Lidoderm, Norco, OxyContin, and zolpidem. Upon examination, the injured worker had a pain level of 7.5/10 with a constant throbbing dull ache. The provider recommended OxyContin. The provider's rationale was not provided. The Request for Authorization Form was dated 01/16/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Oxycontin 60mg #90: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids, Criteria for use Page(s): 78.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS Guidelines recommend the use of opioids for ongoing management of chronic pain. The guidelines recommend ongoing review and documentation of

pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects should be evident. There is a lack of documentation of an objective assessment of the injured worker's pain level, functional status, evaluation for risk of aberrant drug abuse behavior, and side effects. Additionally, the efficacy of the prior use of the medication was not provided. The provider does not indicate the frequency of the medication in the request as submitted. As such the request for Oxycontin 60mg #90 is not medically necessary.