

Case Number:	CM14-0156948		
Date Assigned:	09/29/2014	Date of Injury:	01/15/2002
Decision Date:	10/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/25/2014

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 Internal Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Washington D.C. and Virginia. 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 is a 75year old patient who sustained injury on Jan 15 2002. He was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease with bilateral radicular symptoms. He was prescribed MS contin. He had urine drug testing on Apr 1 2014, May 29 2014, Jun 25 2014 , Aug 11 2014 which was negative for illicit drugs.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 urine drug screen completed 05/29/2014: 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)

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines ss9792.20-.26 Page(s): 88,89, 93, 94.

Decision rationale: As per MTUS guidelines, Urine drug testing should be done 2 times per year and the frequency can be increased if there are signs of abuse or addiction. Indicators and predictors of possible misuse of controlled substances and/or addiction: 1) Adverse consequences: (a) Decreased functioning, (b) Observed intoxication, (c) Negative affective state 2) Impaired control over medication use: (a) Failure to bring in unused medications, (b)

Dose escalation without approval of the prescribing doctor, (c) Requests for early prescription refills, (d) Reports of lost or stolen prescriptions, (e) Unscheduled clinic appointments in "distress", (f) Frequent visits to the ED, (g) Family reports of overuse of intoxication 3) Craving and preoccupation: (a) Non-compliance with other treatment modalities, (b) Failure to keep appointments, (c) No interest in rehabilitation, only in symptom control, (d) No relief of pain or improved function with opioid therapy, (e) Overwhelming focus on opiate issues. 4) Adverse behavior: (a) Selling prescription drugs, (b) Forging prescriptions, (c) Stealing drugs, (d) Using prescription drugs in ways other than prescribed (such as injecting oral formulations), (e) Concurrent use of alcohol or other illicit drugs (as detected on urine screens), (f) Obtaining prescription drugs from non-medical sources (Wisconsin, 2004) (Michna, 2004) (Chabal, 1997) (Portenoy, 1997). Based on the clinical documentation provided, urine drug testing would not be indicated as the patient had no signs of abuse or addiction/abuse.