

Case Number:	CM14-0160242		
Date Assigned:	10/03/2014	Date of Injury:	01/20/2011
Decision Date:	10/31/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/29/2014

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 and Rehabilitation 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:

The injured worker is a 43-year-old female who reported an injury on 01/20/2011. The mechanism of injury was not provided. On 08/04/2014, the injured worker presented with ongoing constant headaches with continued dizziness and nausea and ringing in the ears. He also had complaints of memory loss, constant neck pain, low back pain, left shoulder pain, and left knee pain. Current medications included Norco and Percocet. Upon examination, there was decreased sensation over the left C8 dermatome and a positive impingement sign of the left shoulder. The diagnoses were left cervical radiculopathy, bilateral lumbar radiculopathy, closed head injury with ongoing headaches, fibromyalgia, salivary secretion disturbance, and chondromalacia of the patella of the left knee. The provider recommended Percocet, the provider's rationale was not provided. The Request for Authorization form was not included in the medical documents for review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Percocet: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

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

Decision rationale: The request for Percocet is not medically necessary. 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 lack of evidence of an objective assessment of the injured worker's pain level, functional status, evaluation of risk for aberrant drug abuse behavior and side effects. The efficacy of the prior use of the medication was not provided. Additionally, the provider's request did not indicate the dose, frequency, or quantity of the medication in the request as submitted. As such, the medical necessity has not been established. Therefore this request is not medically necessary.