

Case Number:	CM14-0165536		
Date Assigned:	10/10/2014	Date of Injury:	06/18/2012
Decision Date:	11/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/07/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 28-year-old male with a 6/14/12 date of injury. At the time (5/27/14) of the request for authorization for retrospective request for Wellbutrin XL 150mg # 30 for neuropathic pain of the bilateral upper extremities, DOS 5/27/14, there is documentation of subjective (dull achy pain with intermittent sharp pain in his neck and back and right shoulder, he has clicking and popping in his right knee, his pain is overall moderate to severe) and objective (diminished sensation C5, C6, C7 dermatomes bilaterally; positive tenderness in the paralumbar musculature; positive parascapular tenderness and spasming, positive pectoralis major tenderness, positive Neer's test, positive Hawkins' test, positive acromioclavicular joint tenderness; positive Tinel's and Phalen's at the wrists bilaterally; positive quadriceps atrophy and medial joint line tenderness; positive tenderness over the anterior talofibular ligament and dorsiflexor tendons) findings. The current diagnoses are cervical strain, rule out cervical radiculitis, neuropathic pain bilateral upper extremities, rule out carpal tunnel syndrome bilaterally, right shoulder impingement syndrome, thoracic strain, lumbar strain, degenerative disc disease lumbar spine, right knee rule out internal derangement, right knee status post ACL reconstruction and partial meniscectomy, right ankle rule out impingement, and right ankle tendinitis. The treatment to date includes Wellbutrin for at least 4 months. There is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications with Wellbutrin use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request for Wellbutrin XL 150mg # 30 for neuropathic pain of the bilateral upper extremities, DOS 5/27/14: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antidepressants for chronic pain Page(s): 13-16.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antidepressants for chronic pain Page(s): 13-14. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness and Stress Chapter, Antidepressants Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of chronic pain, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of antidepressants. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Official Disability Guidelines identifies documentation of depression, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of antidepressants. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical strain, rule out cervical radiculitis, neuropathic pain bilateral upper extremities, rule out carpal tunnel syndrome bilaterally, right shoulder impingement syndrome, thoracic strain, lumbar strain, degenerative disc disease lumbar spine, right knee rule out internal derangement, right knee status post ACL reconstruction and partial meniscectomy, right ankle rule out impingement, and right ankle tendinitis. In addition, there is documentation of chronic pain. However, given documentation of treatment with Wellbutrin for at least 4 months, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications with Wellbutrin use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Wellbutrin 150mg #30 is not medically necessary.