

Case Number:	CM14-0087198		
Date Assigned:	07/23/2014	Date of Injury:	01/07/2000
Decision Date:	12/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/10/2014

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, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 patient is an 85 year old female with an injury date of 01/07/00. The 06/27/14 progress report states that the patient presents with pain in the lower back, bilateral knees, neck and right arm. She also presents with back numbness, urinary incontinence and ankle weakness. The patient ambulates with a walker and is not working. Examination reveals tenderness and hypertonicity bilaterally in the paravertebral muscles of the lumbar spine with decreased sensation to touch bilaterally in the feet up to sock level. The patient's diagnoses include: 1. Post laminectomy syndrome, lumbar 2. Lumbar disc displacement 3. Pain in limb 4. Lumbago 5. Lumbar radiculopathy 6. Cervical Spondylosis 7. Cervical degenerative disc disease. Current medications include: Cymbalta, Gabapentin, and Hydrocodone. The utilization review being challenged is dated 06/09/14. The rationale is that clinical practice guidelines do not yet exist for pain management and the test is in the investigational phase. Reports were provided from 05/02/13 to 06/27/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Genetic Testing/Molecular Pathology procedure: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines: Pain Chapter

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Cytokine DNA testing for pain Page(s): 42. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain Chapter, Genetic testing

Decision rationale: The patient presents with lower back, knee, neck, and right arm pain along with back numbness, ankle weakness and urinary incontinence. The treater requests for: Genetic Testing/Molecular Pathology Procedure MTUS, page 42 discusses only Cytokine DNA testing for pain and states it is not recommended. ODG guidelines, Pain Chapter, Genetic testing for potential opioid abuse, states, "Not recommended. While there appears to be a strong genetic component to addictive behavior, current research is experimental in terms of testing for this. Studies are inconsistent, with inadequate statistics and large phenotype range. Different studies use different criteria for definition of controls. More work is needed to verify the role of variants suggested to be associated with addiction and for clearer understanding of their role in different populations." The 06/27/14 treatment plan states the reason for the request is to help identify enzymes used by the patient's body to metabolize opiates and thus to help guide opiate selection for pain management. In this case; however, current research is experimental and this testing is not recommended by ODG. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.