

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0111720		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/06/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/19/2004
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/29/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/14/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/17/2014

### 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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: California, Texas, Florida

Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain Management, Hospice & Palliative Medicine

### 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 female, who sustained an industrial injury on 5/19/04. The injured worker has complaints of back, buttocks and proximal leg pains. The documentation noted that the injured worker has midline tenderness at the axial spine across the lumbosacral junction as well as pain over the left sacroiliac joint and a positive FABER (for flexion, abduction, and external rotation) exam and compression test of the left side. The diagnoses have included lumbar degenerative disc disease; discogenic disease, sacroiliitis and secondary myofascial pain. Treatment to date has included flexeril; norco; celebrex; lunesta and injections. The request was for baseline urine drug screen every 90 days and/or every 3 months.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Baseline Urine Drug Screen every 90 days and/or every 3 months:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, Urine Drug Testing (UDT).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 76-79 and 99 of 127. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Chronic Pain Chapter Urine Drug Testing.

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for a repeat urine toxicology test (UDS), CA MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state the drug testing is recommended as an option. Guidelines go on to recommend monitoring for the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or non-adherent) drug related behaviors. ODG recommends urine drug testing on a yearly basis for low risk patients, 2-3 times a year for moderate risk patients, and possibly once per month for high risk patients. Within the documentation available for review, it appears the patient is taking controlled substance medication. There is no documentation of risk stratification to identify the medical necessity of drug screening at the proposed frequency. Additionally, there is no documentation that the physician is concerned about the patient misusing or abusing any controlled substances. In light of the above issues, the currently requested repeat urine toxicology test is not medically necessary