

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0010145		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/27/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/13/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/17/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/19/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/16/2015

### 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: Georgia

Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain Management

### 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 63 year old male who sustained a work related injury on June 13, 2011, falling off a pallet ten feet to the ground injuring his right shoulder Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) revealed a tear in the right shoulder and prescribed a wrist brace and medications. On October 24, 2011, a right shoulder arthroscope was performed. Treatment included physical therapy and medications. Electromyogram studies revealed cervical radiculopathy, bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome and double crush syndrome. Currently, the injured worker complained of neck and shoulder pain with numbness and tingling of the right hand and wrist. On December 5, 2014, a request for a prescription for Norco 5-325mg 360 was non-certified by Utilization Review, noting the California MTUS Guidelines.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Norco tab 5/325mg #60:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids  
Page(s): 79.

**Decision rationale:** Norco 5/325mg #60 is not medically necessary. Per MTUS Page 79 of MTUS guidelines states that weaning of opioids are recommended if (a) there are no overall improvement in function, unless there are extenuating circumstances (b) continuing pain with evidence of intolerable adverse effects (c) decrease in functioning (d) resolution of pain (e) if serious non-adherence is occurring (f) the patient requests discontinuing. The claimant's medical records did not document that there was an overall improvement in function or a return to work with previous opioid therapy. The claimant has long-term use with this medication and there was a lack of improved function with this opioid; therefore the requested medication is not medically necessary.