

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0113366		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/19/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/08/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/28/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/14/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	06/12/2015

### 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: Arizona, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This is a 53 year old male with a, April 8, 2003 date of injury. A progress note dated April 23, 2015 documents subjective complaints (pain score of 5; lower back pain and some right shoulder pain), objective findings (walks with some slight favoring of the right leg; mild tenderness over the right sacroiliac joint and greater trochanter), and current diagnoses (lumbar degenerative disc disease with some likely right sacroiliitis and piriformis syndrome). Treatments to date have included medications, physical therapy, and exercise. The treating physician documented a plan of care that included Zolpidem.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Zolpidem ER (extended release) 12.5 mg Qty 30 with 1 refill, 1 every night as needed:**  
 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 - Insomnia treatment; Zolpidem (Ambien).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG- and pain chapter- insomnia medications and pg 64.

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS guidelines do not comment on insomnia. According to the ODG guidelines, insomnia medications recommend that treatment be based on the etiology, with the medications. Pharmacological agents should only be used after careful evaluation of potential causes of sleep disturbance. Failure of sleep disturbance to resolve in a 7 to 10 day period may indicate a psychiatric and/or medical illness. Primary insomnia is generally addressed pharmacologically. Secondary insomnia may be treated with pharmacological and/or psychological measures. Zolpidem is indicated for the short-term treatment of insomnia with difficulty of sleep onset (7-10 days). In this case, the claimant had used the medication for several months. The etiology of sleep disturbance was not defined or further evaluated. Continued use of Zolpidem is not medically necessary.