

Case Number:	CM15-0114464		
Date Assigned:	06/23/2015	Date of Injury:	10/31/2002
Decision Date:	07/22/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/08/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/15/2015

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: New Jersey, Alabama, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 57 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 10/31/2002. Diagnoses have included myofascial pain syndrome, lumbar radiculopathy and cervical radiculopathy. Treatment to date has included trigger point injections and medication. According to the progress report dated 1/29/2015, the injured worker complained of pain in the left lower back associated with muscle stiffness. Neurological exam revealed sensory loss in the dorsal aspect of the left foot. There was severe muscle spasm in the left lumbosacral musculature that spread into the left, lower back. The injured worker was permanently disabled. Authorization was requested for Oxycontin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Oxycontin 10mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 74-97, 82, 89, 77.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Criteria for use of opioids Page(s): 76-79.

Decision rationale: Oxycontin is a long acting potent form of opiate analgesic. According to MTUS guidelines, ongoing use of opioids should follow specific rules: "(a) Prescriptions from a single practitioner taken as directed, and all prescriptions from a single pharmacy. (b) The lowest possible dose should be prescribed to improve pain and function. (c) Office: Ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use, and side effects. Four domains have been proposed as most relevant for ongoing monitoring of chronic pain patients on opioids: pain relief, side effects, physical and psychosocial functioning, and the occurrence of any potentially aberrant (or non adherent) drug-related behaviors. These domains have been summarized as the "4 A's" (analgesia, activities of daily living, adverse side effects, and aberrant drug taking behaviors). The monitoring of these outcomes over time should affect therapeutic decisions and provide a framework." There is no documentation of functional and pain improvement with previous use of OxyContin. There is no documentation of continuous compliance of patient with his medications. Therefore, the prescription of Oxycontin 10mg QTY: 60 is not medically necessary.