

Case Number:	CM15-0119134		
Date Assigned:	06/29/2015	Date of Injury:	10/14/2003
Decision Date:	07/28/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/19/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/19/2015

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 64 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on October 14, 2003, incurring upper back and neck injuries. She was diagnosed with cervical spondylosis with left upper extremity myelo-radiculopathy and lumbar spondylosis. Treatment included physical therapy, nerve root ablation, chiropractic sessions, massage therapy, pain management and work restrictions. She underwent a cervical laminectomy. Currently, the injured worker complained of increased neck pain, constant left shoulder pain radiating into the arm and decreased range of motion of the cervical spine. She complained of pain radiating into the arm, numbness in fourth and fifth fingers. The treatment plan that was requested for authorization included a prescription for Soma.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Soma 350mg three times a day #90: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines muscle relaxants Page(s): 29. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Drugs.com, Soma.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Carisoprodol (Soma), page 29.

Decision rationale: Per MTUS Chronic Pain Guidelines on muscle relaxant, Soma is not recommended for mild to moderate chronic persistent pain problems including chronic pain (other than for acute exacerbations) due to the high prevalence of adverse effects in the context of insufficient evidence of benefit as compared to other medications. Guidelines do not recommend long-term use of this muscle relaxant for this chronic injury. Additionally, the efficacy in clinical trials has been inconsistent and most studies are small and of short duration. These medications may be useful for chronic musculoskeletal pain, but there are no long-term studies of their effectiveness or safety. Submitted reports have not adequately demonstrated the indication or medical need for this treatment and there is no report of progressive deterioration in clinical findings, acute flare-up or new injury to support for its long-term use for this chronic injury of 2003. There is no report of functional improvement resulting from its previous treatment to support further use as the patient remains unchanged. The Soma 350mg three times a day #90 is not medically necessary and appropriate.