

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0126757		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/13/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/19/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/06/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/12/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	06/30/2015

### 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: Iowa, Illinois, Hawaii

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Public Health & General Preventive 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 51-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 8/19/07. The injured worker was diagnosed as having myofascial pain syndrome, status post anterior and posterior lumbar fusions, and status post bilateral carpal tunnel releases. Treatment to date has included a home exercise program, trigger point injections, and medication including Oxycodone. Currently, the injured worker complains of low back pain. The treating physician requested authorization for Senna 1-2 tabs daily.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Senna 1-2 tabs daily:** 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 - Opioid-induced constipation treatment.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioid Page(s): 77. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (Chronic), Opioid-induced constipation treatment and Other Medical Treatment Guidelines UpToDate.com, docusate and senna.

**Decision rationale:** Docusate and sennoside are stool softeners and laxatives, respectively. This patient is undergoing treatment with Norco, which is an opioid. The length of time this patient has been on Oxycodone is unknown. Opioids can commonly cause constipation and treatment to prevent constipation is recommended. ODG states that first line treatment should include "physical activity, appropriate hydration by drinking enough water, and advising the patient to follow a proper diet, rich in fiber" and "some laxatives may help to stimulate gastric motility. Other over-the-counter medications can help loosen otherwise hard stools, add bulk, and increase water content of the stool." Uptodate states "Patients who respond poorly to fiber, or who do not tolerate it, may require laxatives other than bulk forming agents." Additionally, "There is little evidence to support the use of surfactant agents in chronic constipation. Stool softeners such as docusate sodium (e.g., Colace) are intended to lower the surface tension of stool, thereby allowing water to more easily enter the stool. Although these agents have few side effects, they are less effective than other laxatives." The treating physician does not document any attempts at first line therapy and does not document the results of the first line therapy. Additionally, the medical documents did not include complaints of bowel dysfunction. As such, the request for Senna 1-2 tabs daily is not medically necessary at this time.