

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0127665		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/14/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/26/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/11/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/26/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/01/2015

### 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: Texas, New York, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 applicant is a represented 27-year-old who has filed a claim for chronic foot and ankle pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of February 26, 2012. In a Utilization Review report dated June 25, 2015, the claims administrator approved a request for Percocet, approved a pain management consultation, approved a follow-up visit, and modified a request for a detoxification program of unspecified duration as a consultation with an addiction medicine specialist. The claims administrator referenced an RFA form received on June 19, 2015 in its determination. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. In an April 14, 2015 RFA form, the attending provider sought authorization for a detox program, seemingly for weaning the applicant off of Percocet. In an associated progress note dated April 14, 2015, the applicant was placed off of work, on total temporary disability. 7-8/10 foot and ankle pain complaints were reported. The applicant was kept off of work, on total temporary disability. The attending provider stated that the applicant was dependent on Percocet, which the applicant was apparently using at a rate of four times a day. The attending provider stated that the applicant would not be able to detoxify herself off of opioids of her own accord but did not state precisely why this was the case.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Detox Program:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Weaning of Medications Page(s): 124.

**Decision rationale:** No, the request for a detox program of unspecified duration was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. While page 124 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines does acknowledge that high-dose drug abusers such as those with polydrug abuse may need inpatient detoxification, here, however, the applicant did not appear to be either a high-dose drug abuser or an individual with polysubstance abuse issues. The April 14, 2015 progress note was thinly developed, sparse, contained little in the way of supporting rationale or supporting commentary, did not furnish the applicant's complete medication list, and did not clearly state or clearly articulate why the applicant was unable to detoxify off of Percocet of her own accord. It was not clearly stated why the applicant needed a formal inpatient detoxification program here. The applicant was using Percocet at a relatively modest dose of four tablets a day, it was reported on April 14, 2015. There was no mention of the applicant's using any other medications or having issues with polydrug abuse on that date. It did not appear, in short, that the applicant was incapable of detoxifying off of Percocet of her own accord, contrary to the decisions of the attending provider. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.