

Case Number:	CM15-0174407		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2015	Date of Injury:	11/06/2013
Decision Date:	10/23/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/04/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/04/2015

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, Hawaii
 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 49 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 11-08-13. The injured worker is undergoing treatment for lumbar disc protrusion, lumbar spondylosis and lumbar stenosis. Medical records dated 3-24-15 through 6-25-15 indicate the injured worker complains of constant low back pain radiating to both legs with numbness and tingling at time of visit dated 6-25-15 pain is rated 8-10. There is reference to a pain management report dated 5-5-15 and a qualified medical exam (QME) dated 4-9-15 in the visit note dated 6-25-15, but no detail as to the results of the reports is indicated. Physical exam dated 6-25-15 notes painful decreased lumbar range of motion (ROM) with tenderness to palpation, negative straight leg raise and painful Kemp's test bilaterally. Treatment to date has included pain management referral and consultation. The original utilization review dated 8-4-15 indicates the request for urine toxicology is non-certified noting lack of indication of use of addictive controlled substance or potential drug abuse suspected.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Urine toxicology: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Opioids, steps to avoid misuse/addiction.

Decision rationale: The patient presents with lumbar disc protrusion, lumbar spondylosis and lumbar stenosis. The patient currently complains of constant low back pain radiating to both legs with numbness and tingling. The current request is for Urine Toxicology. The utilization review dated 8/4/15 indicates the request for urine toxicology is non-certified noting lack of indication of use of addictive controlled substances or potential drug abuse suspected. The clinical history provided fails to include the treating physician's justification for the requested treatment other than the completed Request for Authorization for Toxicology dated 7/30/15 (30b). MTUS guidelines recommend urine toxicology drug screenings for patients that are taking opioids to avoid their misuse. ODG states "Urine drug test is recommended at the onset of treatment of a new patient who is already receiving a controlled substance or when chronic opioid management is considered." In this case, the clinical history notes in the most recent treating report dated 8/6/15 (9b), "Patient states that she does not need any medication at this time. Patient states that she manages her pain with frequent rest." The clinical history fails to document the patient is using an opioid medication and/or any other medication for that matter. The current request is not medically necessary.