

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0064952		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/13/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/25/2005
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/19/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/20/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/06/2015

### 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 65 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on July 25, 2005. She has reported injury to the lumbar spine, knee, and ankle and has been diagnosed with lumbar spine herniated nucleus pulposus with right lower extremity radiculopathy, right lower extremity edema, and right ankle degenerative joint disease. Treatment has included medications, aquatic therapy, and physical therapy. Recent progress report noted there was decreased range of motion to the lumbar spine by 40 %. There was decreased joint space to the right knee and edema to the right foot. The treatment request included a urinalysis, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, opiates and creatinine.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Retrospective Urinalysis (UA), Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), Opiates and Creatinine (DOS: 8/14/2014): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Urine Drug Testing.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids and Substance abuse Page(s): 74-96; 108-109. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation University of Michigan Health System Guidelines for Clinical Care: Managing Chronic Non-terminal Pain, Including Prescribing Controlled Substances (May 2009), pg 32 Established Patients Using a Controlled Substance.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS states that use of urine drug screening for illegal drugs should be considered before therapeutic trial of opioids are initiated. Additionally, use of drug screening or inpatient treatment with issues of abuse, addiction, or poor pain control. Documentation of misuse of medications (doctor-shopping, uncontrolled drug escalation, drug diversion) would indicate need for urine drug screening. There is insufficient documentation provided to suggest issues of abuse, addiction, or poor pain control by the treating physician. University of Michigan Health System Guidelines for Clinical Care: Managing Chronic Non-terminal Pain, Including Prescribing Controlled Substances (May 2009) recommends for stable patients without red flags "twice yearly urine drug screening for all chronic non-malignant pain patients receiving opioids. Once during January-June and another July-December." The patient has been on chronic opioid therapy. The treating physician has not indicated why a urine drug screen is necessary at this time and has provided no evidence of red flags. As such, the request for retrospective Urinalysis (UA), Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS), Opiates and Creatinine (DOS: 8/14/2014) is not medically necessary.