

Case Number:	CM15-0067634		
Date Assigned:	04/15/2015	Date of Injury:	08/29/2001
Decision Date:	05/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/31/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/09/2015

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, Illinois

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 injured worker is 46 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 8/29/2001. Her diagnoses include: left upper extremity chronic regional pain syndrome; left shoulder impingement; and low back/lumbar disc bulge and herniation, with probable left lower extremity chronic regional pain syndrome. Her treatments have included Botox injection therapy (last one on 8/22/14) for migraine headaches: successful; lumbar sympathetic blocks: successful; spinal cord stimulator; and medication management. The progress notes of 2/9/2015 included complaints of upper and lower extremity pain, and severe migraine headaches for which she has not received her medications. The physician's requests for treatments included Oxycontin, quantity #50, for migraine pain, as she has been off her Butrans and Vicodin, and is awaiting authorization for needed Botox injection therapy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

OXYCONTIN TAB 10MG CR DAY SUPPLY 25 QTY 50 REFILLS: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids
Page(s): 78-81.

Decision rationale: The injured worker sustained a work related injury on 8/29/2001. The medical records provided indicate the diagnosis of left upper extremity chronic regional pain syndrome; left shoulder impingement; and low back/lumbar disc bulge and herniation, with probable left lower extremity chronic regional pain syndrome. Her treatments have included Botox injection therapy (last one on 8/22/14) for migraine headaches - successful; lumbar sympathetic blocks - successful; spinal cord stimulator; and medication management. The medical records provided for review do not indicate a medical necessity for Oxycontin tab 10mg cr day supply 25 qty 50 refills. The MTUS recommends the use of the lowest dose of opioids for the short term treatment of moderate to severe pain. The MTUS does not recommend the use of opioids for longer than 70 days in the treatment of chronic pain due to worsening adverse effects and lack of research in support of benefit. Also, the MTUS recommends that individuals on opioid maintenance treatment be monitored for analgesia (pain control), activities of daily living, adverse effects and aberrant behavior; the MTUS recommends discontinuation of opioid treatment if there is no documented evidence of overall improvement or if there is evidence of illegal activity or drug abuse or adverse effect with the opioid medication. The records indicate the use of opioids predate 09/2014; she is not properly monitored for pain control, adverse effects, activities of daily living, aberrant behavior. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.