

Case Number:	CM15-0073766		
Date Assigned:	04/21/2015	Date of Injury:	09/29/2011
Decision Date:	05/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/06/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/01/2015

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: North Carolina
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 57 year old male who sustained a cumulative industrial injury on 09/29/2011. The injured worker was diagnosed with lumbar degenerative disc disease, lumbar radiculopathy, cervical spine herniated nucleus pulposus, left brachial plexopathy and bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome. Treatment to date includes diagnostic testing, acupuncture therapy, injections, extracorporeal shockwave therapy and medications. According to the primary treating physician's progress report on February 7, 2015, the injured worker presented for a follow up evaluation for chronic pain of the lumbar and cervical spine. The documents submitted as medical records are difficult to decipher. The injured worker's back pain radiated to the lower extremities, right leg greater than left. Bilateral wrists were positive for Tinel's sign. Current medications were noted as medical food supplements and topical analgesics. Treatment plan consists of topical analgesics creams, Sentra AM, Gabadone and the current request for Theramine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Theramine #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, medical foods.

Decision rationale: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines and the ACOEM do not specifically address the requested medication. The ODG states that medical foods are not considered medically necessary except in those cases in which the patient has a medical disorder, disease or condition for which there are distinctive nutritional requirements. The requested medication is for weight loss. The criteria per the ODG have not been met and therefore the request is not medically necessary.