

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0077691		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/29/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/16/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/02/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/25/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/23/2015

### 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: New York, West Virginia, Pennsylvania  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Emergency 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 32 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 6/16/03. Initial complaints are not noted. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbar disc injury; lumbosacral radiculopathy; chronic pain syndrome with depression; major depression with psychotic features; panic disorder. Treatment to date has included urine drug screening; medications. Diagnostics include a MRI lumbosacral spine (8/11/03). Currently, the PR-2 notes dated 3/10/15 indicated the injured worker complains of continued constant low back pain and left leg pain. There is no benefit from Amitiza regarding constipation, despite Senekot and Miralax. Persistent problems with left leg weakness but Nucynta, Daypro, Lyrica and topical analgesic cream help with pain. Flexeril helps with muscle spasms. His psych medications were delayed, and he was without them for a week, and experienced an escalation of anxiety during that time. He continues to rely on a cane for balance. The TENS unit helps with pain and spasm control. He is prescribed psych medications from his psychiatrist along with psychotherapy. He denies any side effects with the medications aside constipation. The provider requested Nucynta tab 100 mg quantity unspecified.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Nucynta tab 100 mg Qty unspecified:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Nucynta.

**Decision rationale:** Guidelines recommend Nucynta as a second line opioid in patients who develop intolerable side effects on first line opioids. In this case, there is no documentation of Nucynta being used as second line therapy for a patient with intolerable adverse effects with first line opioids. In addition there is no documentation of functional benefit as a result of Nucynta. The request for Nucynta 100 mg quantity unspecified is not medically appropriate and necessary.