

Case Number:	CM15-0079216		
Date Assigned:	04/30/2015	Date of Injury:	04/28/1997
Decision Date:	05/29/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/24/2015

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

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Disease

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 50 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 04/28/1997. According to a progress report dated 03/03/2015, the injured worker had additional neck pain that was rated 6-7 on a scale of 1-10. She wanted a trigger point injection which she had received in the past. Diagnoses included brachial neuritis or radiculitis not otherwise specified, neck sprain and cervicalgia. There was no change in the injured worker's condition. She was at maximum medical improvement but continued palliative treatment. Current medications included Lidoderm Patch, Norco, Ambien and Soma. Currently under review is the request for a urine toxicology and active-medicated specimen collection kit.

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: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

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

Decision rationale: The patient is a 50 year old female with an injury on 04/28/1997. She had chronic neck pain. Current medication included Norco, Lidoderm patch, Ambien and Soma. There is no documentation of drug abuse, drug misuse or abnormal drug seeking behavior. Also, "Relatively weak evidence supports the effectiveness of opioid treatment agreements and urine drug testing in reducing opioid misuse by patients with chronic pain." (Starrels JL, et al. Systemic Review: Treatment Agreements and Urine Drug Testing to Reduce Opioid Misuse in Patients with Chronic Pain. Ann Intern Med 2010;152:712-720." There is no indication that a urine drug test is medically necessary.

Active-Medicated Specimen Collection Kit: 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).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Goldman's Cecil Medicine, 24th Edition. 2011.

Decision rationale: The patient is a 50 year old female with an injury on 04/28/1997. She had chronic neck pain. Current medication included Norco, Lidoderm patch, Ambien and Soma. There is no documentation of drug abuse, drug misuse or abnormal drug seeking behavior. Also, "Relatively weak evidence supports the effectiveness of opioid treatment agreements and urine drug testing in reducing opioid misuse by patients with chronic pain." (Starrels JL, et al. Systemic Review: Treatment Agreements and Urine Drug Testing to Reduce Opioid Misuse in Patients with Chronic Pain. Ann Intern Med 2010;152:712-720." There is no indication that an active-medicated specimen collection kit is medically necessary.