

Case Number:	CM15-0093681		
Date Assigned:	05/20/2015	Date of Injury:	07/26/2010
Decision Date:	06/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/15/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/14/2015

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: California
 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 63 year old male with an industrial injury dated 7/26/2010. The injured worker's diagnoses include multiple level herniated discs at C3-4 to C6-7 with right sided radiculopathy and right shoulder sprain/strain. Treatment consisted of prescribed medications and periodic follow up visits. In a progress note dated 4/6/2015, the injured worker reported neck pain with radiation down bilateral shoulders and occasional pain in the right shoulder. The injured worker also reported functional improvement and improvement with pain from current medication regimen. Objective findings revealed tenderness over the right posterior cervical paraspinal muscles and bilateral trapezius muscles and moderate tenderness with spasm in the right rhomboid musculature. Treatment plan included acupuncture, continuation of current medication and urine drug screen for medication compliance. The treating physician requested a urine drug screen now under review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Urine drug screen: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines "Drug testing" Page(s): 43.

Decision rationale: The requested Urine drug screen, is not medically necessary. CA Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) 2009: Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, Page 43, "Drug testing", recommend drug screening "to assist in monitoring adherence to a prescription drug treatment regimen (including controlled substances); to diagnose substance misuse (abuse), addiction and/or other aberrant drug related behavior" when there is a clinical indication. These screenings should be done on a random basis. The injured worker has neck pain with radiation down bilateral shoulders and occasional pain in the right shoulder. The injured worker also reported functional improvement and improvement with pain from current medication regimen. Objective findings revealed tenderness over the right posterior cervical paraspinal muscles and bilateral trapezius muscles and moderate tenderness with spasm in the right rhomboid musculature. Treatment plan included acupuncture, continuation of current medication and urine drug screen for medication compliance. The treating provider has not documented provider concerns overpatient use of illicit drugs or non-compliance with prescription medications. There is no documentation of the dates of the previous drug screening over the past 12 months nor what those results were and any potential related actions taken. The request for drug screening is to be made on a random basis. There are also no documentation regarding collection details, which drugs are to be assayed or the use of an MRO. The criteria noted above not having been met, Urine drug screen is not medically necessary.