

Case Number:	CM15-0094799		
Date Assigned:	05/20/2015	Date of Injury:	02/15/2013
Decision Date:	07/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/06/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/15/2015

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, New York, California
 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 applicant is a represented 35-year-old who has filed a claim for chronic neck, knee, and low back reportedly associated with an industrial injury of February 15, 2013. In a Utilization Review report dated May 6, 2015, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for cyclobenzaprine. The claims administrator referenced an April 2, 2015 progress note in its determination. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On December 11, 2014, the applicant was placed off of work, on total temporary disability, owing to multifocal complaints of neck, low back, ankle, and foot pain. A TENS unit, Flexeril, tramadol, and multiple MRI studies were endorsed while the applicant was kept off of work, on total temporary disability. On January 5, 2015, the applicant was again asked to continue tramadol, Flexeril, Naprosyn, and Protonix.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cyclobenzaprine 7.5mg #90: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines
Cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril) Page(s): 41.

Decision rationale: No, the request for cyclobenzaprine (Flexeril) is not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. As noted on page 41 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, the addition of cyclobenzaprine or Flexeril to other agents is not recommended. Here, the applicant was, in fact, using a variety of other agents, including Naprosyn, tramadol, etc. Adding cyclobenzaprine or Flexeril to the mix was not recommended. It is further noted that the 90-tablet supply of cyclobenzaprine at issue represents treatment well in excess of the "short course of therapy" for which cyclobenzaprine is recommended, per page 41 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.