

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0097407		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	05/28/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	03/02/1990
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/03/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/12/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/20/2015

### 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: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 51 year old female sustained an industrial injury on March 2, 1990. The injured worker previously received the following treatments Norco, random toxicology laboratory studies was negative for any unexpected findings, injections, physical therapy and taking medications as prescribed. The injured worker was diagnosed with lumbago, low back pain, depression, low back pain, sacroiliac joint pain and chronic pain syndrome. According to progress note of April 2, 2015, the injured workers chief complaint was low back pain with radiation of pain into the right leg. The pain was described as pins and needles sensation, aching and stabbing. The pain was rated at 7-8 out of 10 without pain medication and 4-5 out of 10 with pain medication. The pain was aggravated by prolong sitting, walking, bending, and lifting. The pain was alleviated by lying down, medications, injections, and physical therapy. The injured worker denied any adverse reaction to pain medications. The physical exam noted tenderness over the right sacroiliac joint. There was muscle tightness in the lower back. The right hip was grade 4 out of 5 and limited by pain. The injured worker ambulated independently with a cane. The injured worker had difficulty getting up from a sitting to a standing position. The treatment plan included a prescription for Kadian Morphine sulfate sustained released capsule 20mg.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Kadian 20mg #120:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20- 9792.26 MTUS (Effective July 18, 2009) Page(s): 44, 47, 75-79, 120 of 127.

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for Kadian, California Pain, Medical Treatment Guidelines state that this is an opiate pain medication. Due to high abuse potential, close follow-up is recommended with documentation of analgesic effect, objective functional improvement, side effects, and discussion regarding any aberrant use. Guidelines go on to recommend discontinuing opioids if there is no documentation of improved function and pain. Within the documentation available for review, while subjective pain relief is noted, there is no indication that the medication is improving the patient's function (in terms of specific examples of functional improvement). As such, there is no clear indication for ongoing use of the medication. Opioids should not be abruptly discontinued, but unfortunately, there is no provision to modify the current request to allow tapering. In light of the above issues, the currently requested Kadian is not medically necessary.