

Case Number:	CM15-0098274		
Date Assigned:	05/29/2015	Date of Injury:	09/04/2012
Decision Date:	06/29/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/27/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/21/2015

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: Arizona, California
Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 47 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/4/2012. The mechanism of injury is unknown. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbar annular tear, lumbar disc displacement, lumbar radiculopathy and lumbar stenosis. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included therapy and medication management. In a progress note dated 2/4/2015, the injured worker complains of constant low back pain. Physical examination showed tenderness over the paravertebral area. Current medications included Norco. Urine drug screen performed on 3/21/2015 showed no opioids detected. The treating physician is requesting urine toxicology screen.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Urine toxicology per 3/17/2015 order: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Drug testing; Opioids, criteria for use Page(s): 43, 78. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain, Urine drug testing.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines urine toxicology Page(s): 82-92.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, urine toxicology screen is used to assess presence of illicit drugs or to monitor adherence to prescription medication program. There's no documentation from the provider to suggest that there was illicit drug use or noncompliance. There were no prior urine drug screen results that indicated noncompliance, substance-abuse or other inappropriate activity. Based on the above references and clinical history a urine toxicology screen is not medically necessary.