

Case Number:	CM15-0099129		
Date Assigned:	06/01/2015	Date of Injury:	05/05/2013
Decision Date:	07/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/23/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/22/2015

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: Connecticut, California, Virginia
 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 injured worker is a 65-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 5/5/13. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbar radiculopathy, degenerative disc disease, low back pain, lumbar facet pain and chronic pain syndrome. Currently, the injured worker was with complaints of pain in the lower back and lower extremities. Previous treatments included medication management and activity modification. Previous diagnostic studies included a magnetic resonance imaging and electromyography. The injured workers pain level was noted as 8-9/10. The plan of care was for a urine drug screen.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Urine drug screen, 3-4 x a year: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines urine drug screening Page(s): 89.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain guidelines describe urine drug testing as an option to assess for the use or presence of illegal drugs. Given this patient's history based on the provided documentation, there is no clear documented evidence of risk assessment for abuse, etc. Without documentation of concerns for abuse/misuse or aberrant behavior, the need for screening cannot be substantiated at this time and is therefore not considered medically necessary, particularly at a frequency of 3-4 times per year.