

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

P.O. Box 138009

Sacramento, CA 95813-8009

(855) 865-8873 Fax: (916) 605-4270



Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/27/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Date of UR Decision:

8/9/2013

Date of Injury:

10/19/2007

IMR Application Received:

8/15/2013

MAXIMUS Case Number:

CM13-0011777

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **unknown urine drug screen is medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/15/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/9/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 9/20/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **unknown urine drug screen is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine (ABIM), and is licensed to practice in California. 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

This is a 36 year old male who sustained a back injury while working as a tile installer on 10/19/2007. The pertinent diagnosis relevant to this case low back pain, lumbar spine muscle spasms, bilateral lower extremity radiculopathy. The particular issue in this case is whether an unknown drug screen was medically necessary.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for unknown urine drug screen:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator did not cite a guideline in its utilization review determination letter.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, pg. 43, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines indicate, "Recommended as an option, using a urine drug screen to assess for the use or the presence of illegal drugs. For more information, see Opioids, criteria for use: (2) Steps to Take Before a Therapeutic Trial of Opioids & (4) On-Going Management; Opioids, differentiation: dependence & addiction; Opioids, screening for risk of addiction (tests); & Opioids, steps to avoid misuse/addiction." After careful review of the medical records and documentation provided to me there is sufficient documentation that an unknown drug screen was appropriate for this employee. The employee was on multiple medication due to pain. The urine drug screen tested for a number of different legal and illegal substances which would help the provider in determining the appropriate management. **The request for unknown urine drug screen is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/ldh

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.