

Case Number:	CM14-0156452		
Date Assigned:	09/25/2014	Date of Injury:	10/23/1989
Decision Date:	11/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/24/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, has a subspecialty in Pulmonary Disease 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 disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 62-year-old male who reported an injury on 10/23/1989. Reportedly, his blood pressure was low, and he fell out of the chair and struck his shoulders and neck. Past treatment history included TENS unit, pain medications, HELP program, and urine drug screen. The injured worker was evaluated on 09/22/2014, and it was documented that the injured worker continued with his left shoulder pain. The injured worker was referred to the Salinas HELP program for detoxification. It was documented the insurance carrier requested the injured worker to go to an in-house program. The injured worker declined because of his other significant health problems due to that he would have to stay in the in-house program for 1 month. The injured worker continued with the fentanyl patches, and has been stretching them to every 4 days. The physical examination revealed gives no history of depression, anxiety, disorders, suicidal ideation or psychosis. The physical examination revealed diffusely tender left shoulder joint. Medications included albuterol, aspirin, fentanyl patch, gabapentin, and tizanidine, Tylenol over the counter, ondansetron, and alprazolam. The diagnoses included shoulder disorder unspecified. The Request for Authorization dated 09/22/2014 was for genetic testing.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Genetic testing: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), DNA Testing

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Cytokine DNA Testing for Pain Page(s): 42.

Decision rationale: The requested is not medically necessary. Per California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Guidelines does not recommend Cytokine DNA Testing for pain. There is no current evidence to support the use of cytokine DNA testing for the diagnosis of pain, including chronic pain. Scientific research on cytokines is rapidly evolving. There is vast and growing scientific evidence base concerning the biochemistry of inflammation and it is commonly understood that inflammation plays a key role in injuries and chronic pain. Cellular mechanisms are ultimately involved in the inflammatory process and healing, and the molecular machinery involves cellular signaling proteins or agents called cytokines. Given rapid developments in cytokine research, novel applications have emerged and one application is cytokine DNA signature testing which has been used as a specific test for certain pain diagnoses such as fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome. The provider failed to indicate evidence to support the use of cytokine DNA testing including salvia for the diagnosis of pain, including chronic pain. As such, the request for genetic testing is not medically necessary.