

Case Number:	CM13-0017970		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	08/27/2010
Decision Date:	07/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/31/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/28/2013

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, 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 patient is a 53 year old male. Prior treatment history has included simvastatin, amlodipine, metoprolol, Flovent, Ventolin inhaler, Fish oil, Chondroitin, and flucosamine. The patient underwent an umbilical hernia in 03/2008; a hemorrhoidectomy in 04/2008; fistula surgery in 03/2010; and removal of skin cancer in 03/2011. Diagnostic studies reviewed include an echocardiogram dated 02/19/2013, which revealed abnormal findings due to an enlarged right ventricle, right atrium, left atrium and aortic root, septal hypertrophy and mildly elevated right ventricular systolic pressure. A pulmonary function test performed on 06/29/2012 revealed mild bronchial asthma; postbronchodilator expiratory flow rates are essentially normal. There was less airtrapping postbronchodilator and thoracic gas volume dropped by 18% and the residual volume by 22% and was normal. An initial Internal Medicine consultation dated 04/23/2013 notes the patient to have had an elevated LDL; His HDL was low and triglycerides were 247. A cardiology evaluation dated 01/30/2013 indicated the patient presented for an evaluation. It documents the patient was diagnosed with high cholesterol in 2010. It noted he had blood work obtained and it revealed a cholesterol of 139; triglycerides 183; and HCL cholesterol 33.5.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ECHOCARDIOGRAM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: American Society of Echocardiography Clinical Recommendations for Multimodality Cardiovascular Imaging of Patients with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy; (J Am Soc Echocardiography 2011;24:473-98.).

Decision rationale: Lipitor is a medication used to treat hyperlipidemia and decrease the risk for vascular disease. The medical records provided for review do state the patient has a history of elevated cholesterol however did not provide recent lab results. It is unknown why the patient is switching from simvastatin to Lipitor. The medical records provided for review do not show the patient has ongoing hyperlipidemia which requires pharmacologic therapy at this time. Given the information above and the clinical data provided for review, the request is not medically necessary and appropriate.

LIPITOR 10MG #30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Plus - Atorvastatin <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/meds/a600045.html>.

Decision rationale: Lipitor is a medication used to treat hyperlipidemia and decrease the risk for vascular disease. The medical records provided for review do state the patient has a history of elevated cholesterol however did not provide recent lab results. It is unknown why the patient is switching from simvastatin to Lipitor. The medical records provided for review do not show the patient has ongoing hyperlipidemia which requires pharmacologic therapy at this time. Given the information above and the clinical data provided for review, the request is not medically necessary and appropriate.