

Case Number:	CM13-0032360		
Date Assigned:	12/11/2013	Date of Injury:	08/15/2005
Decision Date:	02/07/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/17/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/07/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Occupational 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 physician 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 applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee, who has filed a claim for chronic low back and left foot pain associated with cumulative trauma at work between the dates of January 15, 2011 and August 15, 2005. Thus far, the applicant has been treated with analgesic medications; transfer of care to and from various providers in various specialties; treatments for various infections and inflammatory conditions, including Crohn's disease, cellulitis, and skin infections; and extensive periods of time off of work. In a progress note dated November 26, 2013, the applicant is diagnosed with issues related to Crohn's disease, diabetes, recurrent urinary tract infections, and inflammatory bowel disease. The applicant is on Lasix, Doxycycline, Bystolic, vitamin D, Lopressor, Flagyl, Catapres, Cardizem, Diovan, Imdur, Metformin, Restasis, Renagel, and TriCor. The applicant will also be given a prescription for Levaquin to use if and when she has symptoms of a urinary tract infection. Multiple notes interspersed throughout late 2013 state that she is continuing to seek Levaquin. Various hypertension medications are also noted. A September 6, 2013 note suggests that the applicant should be provided a lifetime supply of rectal suppositories for Crohn's disease, and that the applicant should also be given associated lubricating jelly packets. The lubricating jelly packets are apparently to be employed alongside insertion of Canasa suppositories.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

The request for a lifetime supply of E-Z lubricating jelly individual sterile packets that are bacteriostatic, latex free, and water soluble: 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 Canasa.com - how to insert Canasa, and About Canasa

Decision rationale: The MTUS did not address the issue. As noted in the Canasa product description/product insert, lubricating jelly can be used to facilitate application of Canasa suppositories. Canasa is a medication which has apparently been prescribed for the claimant's ulcerative proctitis. While provision of a limited supply of lubricating jelly to facilitate insertion or application of these suppositories would have been appropriate, the lifetime supply being sought by the attending provider is not necessarily appropriate. The claimant's condition of ulcerative proctitis may wax and wane. Different medications may be employed over the course of a lifetime. The Canasa suppositories may later lose effect or lose potency. If that is the case, then alternate medications, either oral or rectal, will need to be selected. It is unclear whether the claimant will continue to need to use the associated lubricating jelly packets for her entire lifetime. Therefore, the request is not certified.