

Case Number:	CM13-0035604		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	06/23/2005
Decision Date:	02/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/02/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/17/2013

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 Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 patient is a 63 year old male with complaints of continuing neck pain, low back pain, and bilateral shoulder pain. The date of injury was June 23, 2005. The diagnoses included chronic neck pain, lumbar discogenic disease, and bilateral rotator cuff injuries. The treatment included cervical spinal fusion, bilateral rotator cuff surgeries, home exercise and medications. The request for authorization for Prilosec 20 mg # 60 was received on September 26, 2013.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Outpatient pharmacy purchase of Prilosec 20mg #60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 68.

Decision rationale: Omeprazole is a proton pump inhibitor (PPI). PPI's are used in the treatment of peptic ulcer disease and may be prescribed in patients who are using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and are at high risk for gastrointestinal events. Risk factors for high-risk events are age greater than 65, history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation, concurrent use of ASA, corticosteroids, and/or an anticoagulant, or high dose/multiple NSAID (e.g., NSAID

+ low-dose ASA). The patient was using Anaprox which is an NSAID, but had no other risk factors for a gastrointestinal event