

Case Number:	CM13-0037023		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	11/26/2007
Decision Date:	07/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/30/2013

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 Psychiatry and Neurology, Addiction Medicine, has a subspecialty in Geriatric Psychiatry, 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 records reviewed include 18 pages of medical and administrative records. The date of injury is 11/26/07 and the patient's diagnosis is sexual side effects -302.72. He was working at the time of this request. Psychiatric progress notes of 11/13/12, 04/22/13, 06/28/13, 08/01/13, and 09/03/13 show that the patient was prescribed Ritalin LA 40mg per day, Lexapro 10mg per day, and Cialis 20mg on an as needed basis for the sexual side effects of the psychotropic medications. It had been denied around 08/2013. In the notes of 11/13/12 and 04/22/13, [REDACTED] further opines that without the Cialis the patient is at risk of stopping Lexapro which may result in depression and anxiety, with the possibility of becoming a suicide risk if he is not on psychotropic medication. This medication was strongly recommended by [REDACTED]. There was no evidence in the records provided of suicidal ideation, plan, or intent. The patient was employed and no symptoms of depression were described, either subjectively or objectively, with the exception of [REDACTED] note of 06/28/13 in which he reported that the patient had difficulty functioning due to bouts of depression and anxiety.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cialis 10mg Qty 10: 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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness & Stress; Antidepressants for treatment of MDD (major depressive disorder).

Decision rationale: The patient was prescribed Lexapro, an antidepressant of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor class, which has the potential for sexual side effects. As noted above, on 06/28/13 [REDACTED] appeared to believe that without Cialis the patient may be at risk of discontinuing the Lexapro, leading to another bout of depression and anxiety, possibly becoming a suicide risk with ultimate psychiatric hospitalization. However, in psychiatric progress notes of August and September 2013, reports show that the patient is doing well, without suicidal ideation or symptoms of depression related either subjectively or objectively. The patient's difficulties were not described except to say that he experienced sexual side effects from Lexapro and erectile dysfunction. In addition, there was no evidence in records provided for review that the patient was worked up for other causes of erectile dysfunction. There are a number of physical causes that commonly lead to erectile dysfunction such as low testosterone, alcohol and other forms of substance use, high blood pressure, heart disease, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity just to name a few. Given all of these factors, this request for Cialis is not medically necessary.