

Case Number:	CM13-0041336		
Date Assigned:	03/24/2014	Date of Injury:	03/09/2010
Decision Date:	07/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/03/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/14/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 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 presented with a date of injury of 3/9/10. A utilization review determination dated 10/3/13 recommends non-certification of lamotrigine and Cymbalta as the provided information was illegible and not current, with no additional information provided when requested. 11/11/13 medical report identifies that the Vyvanse seems to be much more effective than the Concerta in the first 5-6 hours. Anxiety is rated 8-10 and depression is rated to be 10. Multiple symptoms related to both are noted. Workers' Compensation case was settled and she will return to the psychiatric care of another provider. Assessment: Responding to therapy at this time.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LAMOTRIGINE 200MG #60 WITH ONE REFILL: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 MTUS (Effective July 18, 2009) Page 16-21 of 127 Page(s): 16,-21 of 127. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness & Stress, PTSD pharmacotherapy Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: <http://www.drugs.com/pro/lamotrigine.html>.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Lamotrigine, California MTUS and Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) provide some support for its use in the management of neuropathic pain and PTSD, but are silent with regard to depression and anxiety. It is FDA-approved for the treatment of epilepsy and bipolar disorder. It is sometimes utilized off-label in the management of depression. Within the documentation available for review, Lamotrigine has been utilized for some time, but there is no recent discussion of its efficacy in the management of the patient's depression and/or anxiety, particularly given that the patient currently rates her anxiety as 8-10/10 and depression as 10/10. In the absence of such documentation, the request for Lamotrigine 200 mg # 60 with one refill is not medically necessary and appropriate.

CYMBALTA 60MG #30 WITH TWO REFILLS: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 and Pages 13-16 Page(s): 13-16.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Cymbalta, California MTUS notes that it is FDA-approved for anxiety, depression, diabetic neuropathy, and fibromyalgia, and used off-label for neuropathic pain and radiculopathy. Within the documentation available for review, this medication has been utilized for depression for some time, but there is no recent discussion of its efficacy, particularly given that the patient currently rates her anxiety as 8-10/10 and depression as 10/10. In the absence of such documentation, the request for Cymbalta 60 mg # 30 with two refills is not medically necessary and appropriate.