

Case Number:	CM13-0043169		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	07/29/2011
Decision Date:	02/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/31/2013

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 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 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:

This male sustained an injury on 7/29/11 while employed by the [REDACTED]. Request under consideration include Sumatriptan Succinate tablets 25 mg, #9 times 2. Report dated 6/17/13 from [REDACTED] noted patient with ongoing lumbar pain with extension. He failed conservative measures, including activity modification, PT, pain management and 2 lumbar ESIs. There are C5-6 dysesthesia and CTS findings; impingement sign; lumbar exam showed tender points and restricted ROM; knee exam showed positive McMurray's; findings of plantar fasciitis. Diagnoses included cervical/lumbar discopathy, CTS/double crush, right shoulder impingement/labral/ RTC tear, s/p right knee arthroscopy with DJD/ meniscus tear; left knee chondromalacia patella, and bilateral plantar fasciitis. Toradol injection was given. Surgery is now considered. Status was TTD. Report of 8/19/13 noted low back pain that radiates to legs with associated numbness and tingling; prior ESI with good response recommending another ESI. There is a 9/17/13 noted that states Sumatriptan was prescribed for migraine headaches that were associated with spine pain. Request was partially-certified on 9/27/13 for #9 pending payer and provider settlement on compensability for migraine headaches.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Sumatriptan Succinate tablets 25 mg, #9 times 2: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG and the Physician's Desk Reference, online edition.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) - Head, Triptans

Decision rationale: This male sustained an injury on 7/29/11 while employed by the [REDACTED]. Reports from [REDACTED] noted patient with ongoing lumbar pain with extension. He failed conservative measures, including activity modification, PT, pain management and 2 lumbar ESIs. There are C5-6 dysesthesia and CTS findings; impingement sign; lumbar exam showed tender points and restricted ROM; knee exam showed positive McMurray's; findings of plantar fasciitis. Diagnoses included cervical/lumbar discopathy, CTS/double crush, right shoulder impingement/labral/ RTC tear, s/p right knee arthroscopy with DJD/ meniscus tear; left knee chondromalacia patella, and bilateral plantar fasciitis. Toradol injection was given. Report of 8/19/13 noted low back pain that radiates to legs with associated numbness and tingling; prior ESI with good response recommending another ESI. There is a 9/17/13 noted that states Sumatriptan was prescribed for migraine headaches that were associated with spine pain. Sumatriptan Succinate Imitrex Tablets are indicated for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults. Serious cardiac events, including some that have been fatal, have occurred following the use of Imitrex Injection or Tablets. These events are extremely rare and most have been reported in patients with risk factors predictive of CAD. Events reported have included coronary artery vasospasm, transient myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, ventricular tachycardia, and ventricular fibrillation. The patient has no confirmed diagnostic pathology on imaging study, electrodiagnostic or clinical examination to support treatment of migraines under review. There is no history of head trauma. There is no cervical spine MRI or EMG/NCV of the cervical spine and upper extremities remarkable for migraine etiology. There are no defined neurological deficits of the cervical spine and upper extremities to support for this medication. The patient was provided partial-certification; however there are no submitted reports documenting functional improvement from treatment already rendered. Sumatriptan Succinate tablets 25 mg, #9 times 2 is not medically necessary and appropriate.