

Case Number:	CM13-0054650		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	09/20/2001
Decision Date:	04/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/11/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/19/2013

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 Geriatrics 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 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:

This injured worker is a 64 year old woman with a date of injury of 9/20/01 and chronic headaches. Her primary treating physician diagnosed acute/chronic sinusitis by telephone call on 10/5/13 when she called complaining of a sinus full of green sputum and a severe sinus headache. Levaquin was requested at 500mg daily for 7 days which is at issue in this review. Per the records, she is allergic to cephalosporins.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

A SEVEN DAY PRESCRIPTION OF LEVAQUIN 500MG: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM. ACUTE RHINOSINUSITIS IN ADULTS. ANN ARBOR (MI): UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM; 2011 AUG. 9 P

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACUTE SINUSITIS AND RHINOSINUSITIS IN ADULTS: TREATMENT

Decision rationale: This injured worker was diagnosed with acute / chronic sinusitis via telephone call. The records do not document duration of symptoms or associated symptoms such

as fever. Doxycycline is a reasonable choice as first-line therapy in those with penicillin allergy. A fluoroquinolone such as is another option in penicillin-allergic patients. However, it is not clear that the infection is acute bacterial sinusitis vs. acute viral sinusitis and it is generally not possible to distinguish the two in the first 10 days of illness. There is not clear symptomatology or time frame to indicate that the prescription of antibiotics is medically necessary.