

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0056550		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/21/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/02/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/18/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/22/2013

### 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 Occupational Medicine 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 MTUS does not address treatment of sexual disorders or side effects of antidepressants. The Up-to-date citations above provide a detailed set of recommendations for management of sexual dysfunction of varied etiologies. Causation should be investigated, per these guidelines. The treating physician has not adequately evaluated the "sexual side effects" that are apparently present in this case. These "side effects" are not explained. They were present prior to the use of Zoloft, and Zoloft was started after they were already present. The history of the condition was not discussed. The injured worker has significant co-morbidity, with diabetes and the metabolic syndrome. These conditions are often causative of sexual dysfunction and this was not discussed or mentioned. Patients may have sexual dysfunction for many different reasons, and it is important that causation be addressed, particularly if the cause is a treatable medical condition. The treating physician did not attempt a trial of antidepressants that do not have "sexual side effects", as guidelines recommend. The Cialis is not medically necessary due to lack of sufficient clinical evaluation and lack of usual medication management, which would involve changes in medications to avoid the side effects, not adding an SSRI like Zoloft which would likely worsen the condition.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**CIALIS 20MG PRN#15:** 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 Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Up-to-date, Treatment of male sexual dysfunction; Sexual dysfunction associated with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants: Management.

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS does not address treatment of sexual disorders or side effects of antidepressants. The Up-to-date citations above provide a detailed set of recommendations for management of sexual dysfunction of varied etiologies. Causation should be investigated, per these guidelines. The treating physician has not adequately evaluated the "sexual side effects" that are apparently present in this case. These "side effects" are not explained. They were present prior to the use of Zoloft, and Zoloft was started after they were already present. The history of the condition was not discussed. The injured worker has significant co-morbidity, with diabetes and the metabolic syndrome. These conditions are often causative of sexual dysfunction and this was not discussed or mentioned. Patients may have sexual dysfunction for many different reasons, and it is important that causation be addressed, particularly if the cause is a treatable medical condition. The treating physician did not attempt a trial of antidepressants that do not have "sexual side effects", as guidelines recommend. The Cialis is not medically necessary due to lack of sufficient clinical evaluation and lack of usual medication management, which would involve changes in medications to avoid the side effects, not adding an SSRI like Zoloft which would likely worsen the condition.