

Case Number:	CM13-0071397		
Date Assigned:	01/10/2014	Date of Injury:	05/05/2009
Decision Date:	05/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/18/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/27/2013

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:

This 45 year-old patient sustained an injury on 5/5/09 while employed by [REDACTED]. The request under consideration is a prescription of an unknown dosage of Toradol. The report of 11/13/13 from the provider noted patient with complaints of headaches, neck pain with rotation, cramping of the pectoralis muscle on right, spasm in the right shoulder with twitching, right knee pain not better, arms were numb at night, sleeping on left side and pain rated at 5/10 with medications and 6-7/10 without. The exam showed full neck flexion with ligament clicking on extension, 45 degrees lateral rotation, 50 degrees on right and 30 degrees on left rotation, tenderness and tightness of trapezius muscle, decreased grip strength on left, positive Tinel's with tingling, positive numbness of axilla and supraclavicular area, DTRs 2+ in upper extremities and 3+ patellar, normal tone and negative Babinski, no long tract signs and decreased sensation of left hand when up over his head. The diagnoses included cervical spine pain with possible radiculopathy, congenital fusion at C5-6, possible Cubital tunnel syndrome, possible thoracic outlet syndrome and headaches, cervicogenic vs. post-concussion. The request for unknown Toradol dose was non-certified on 12/18/13 citing guidelines criteria and lack of medical necessity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

UNKNOWN DOSAGE OF TORADOL: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Anti-inflammatory Drugs Page(s): 22.

Decision rationale: Ketorolac tromethamine (Toradol), a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), is indicated for the short-term (up to 5 days in adults), management of moderately severe acute pain that requires analgesia at the opioid level. Ketorolac (Toradol, generic available) has a "Boxed Warning" as this medication is not indicated for minor or chronic painful conditions. The submitted report has no documented medical indication, no report of acute flare-up, no change in clinical presentation, or functional improvement from treatment rendered. Anti-inflammatories are the traditional first line of treatment, to reduce pain so activity and functional restoration can resume, but long-term use may not be warranted. Monitoring of NSAIDs functional benefit is advised as per Guidelines, long-term use of NSAIDS beyond a few weeks may actually retard muscle and connective tissue healing and increase the risk of hip fractures. Available reports submitted have not adequately addressed the indication to for the unknown dose of Toradol for chronic pain without demonstrated acute flare-up. The prescription of an unknown dosage of Toradol is not medically necessary and appropriate.