

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0009881		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/21/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/10/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/24/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/03/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/27/2014

### 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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain 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:

This is a 40-year-old male with a 4/10/10 date of injury. The notes describe "GI distress" for which medication was denied. The claimant sustained injuries to the low back lifting a 50-gallon water heater. There has been extensive conservative treatments including physical therapy and acupuncture. The QME has documented diagnoses of lumbosacral strain/sprain and left wrist strain/sprain. 12/20/13 progress report by [REDACTED] describes a urine drug screen showing that the patient is compliant with medications. Review of many of the medical records are handwritten and illegible. 7/28/13 report again describes "GI distress". And creams have been helping. There are drug screens showing that the patient was taking tramadol as prescribed with no aberrancies. The patient's medication list is sparse however includes extended-release tramadol one tablet p.o. b.i.d. for chronic pain and topical compound creams.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**URINE ANALYSIS:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, Urine Drug Testing.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Drug Testing, On-Going Management Page(s): 43, 78.

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS chronic pain medical treatment guidelines state that urine analysis is recommended as an option for ongoing opiate management, dependence and addiction, and for screening. It is noted that the patient has 8/2010 date of injury and has been taking tramadol. The guidelines state that urine drug screens routinely is recommended for patients on chronic opiates, recommended randomly at least twice and up to 4 times a year. The urine drug screen is medically necessary.

**PANTOPRAZOLE 20MG:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms and Cardiovascular Risk Page(s): 68. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs). The FDA.

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS and ODG guidelines state that proton pump inhibitors are recommended for patients at risk or gastrointestinal advents. A trial of omeprazole or lansoprazole is recommended before pentyl result. Protonix (pentyl personal) is recommended as second line therapy. The documents describe "GI distress" it is not entirely clear. There has not been any demonstrated trial of first-line options.