

Case Number:	CM14-0101323		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2014	Date of Injury:	08/06/2006
Decision Date:	11/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/20/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/01/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 patient is a 68-year-old male with a date of injury of 08/06/2006. The listed diagnosis per [REDACTED] is shoulder pain. According to progress report 06/02/2014, the patient presents with chronic right shoulder pain. The patient states that Duexis is effective in managing his heartburn symptoms and is working well with no side effects. Medication regimen includes ibuprofen 400 mg, Cardura 20 mg, chlorthalidone, Crestor 20 mg, losartan potassium 100 mg, and Duexis. Examination of the shoulder revealed restricted flexion limited to 150 degrees and abduction limited to 150 degrees. Hawkins test, shoulder crossover test, empty can's test, and Speed's test are all positive. Treater states that ibuprofen will be discontinued as Duexis is "just as effective and he no longer exhibits GI upset." The treater is requesting Duexis 800/26.6 one tab daily as needed #30 with 2 refills. Utilization review denied the request on 6/20/14. Progress reports 3/10/14 and 6/2/14 were provided for review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Duexis 800/26.6 1 tab daily po as needed #30, 2 Refills: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines-Pain

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk Anti-inflammatory medications Page(s): 69, 22.

Decision rationale: This patient presents with chronic right shoulder pain. The treater is requesting Duexis 800/26.6 one tab daily p.o. as needed #30 with 2 refills. Duexis is a combination of NSAID and famotidine. For anti-inflammatory medications, the MTUS Guidelines page 22 states "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." For Famotidine, The MTUS Guidelines page 68 and 69 state, "Clinicians should weight the indications for NSAIDs against both GI and cardiovascular risk factors." MTUS recommends determining risk for GI events before prescribing prophylactic PPI or omeprazole. GI risk factors include: (1) Age is greater than 65, (2) History of peptic ulcer disease and GI bleeding or perforation, (3) Concurrent use of ASA or corticosteroid and/or anticoagulant, (4) High dose/multiple NSAID. The medical file indicates that the patient was given a sample of Duexis on 3/10/14. The patient has tried Ibuprofen which irritated the GI system. Since starting Duexis, the patient apparently no longer has GI symptoms. The treater also states that ibuprofen will be discontinued as Duexis is effective in managing the patient's pain. Therefore the request is medically necessary.