

Case Number:	CM14-0103498		
Date Assigned:	07/30/2014	Date of Injury:	01/08/2013
Decision Date:	09/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/03/2014

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 Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 32-year-old male with a 1/8/13 date of injury. At the time (5/28/14) of the request for authorization for Pantoprazole-Protonix 20mg #60, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain radiating into the posterior aspect of his lower extremities to the mid calves, associated numbness and tingling, and heartburn) and objective (ambulates to the examination room without assistance, able to sit comfortably) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar disc displacement without myelopathy), and treatment to date (medication including chronic NSAID therapy). There is no documentation that Pantoprazole is being used as a second-line.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pantoprazole-Protonix 2-mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk Page(s): 68-69. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (Chronic), Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs).

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that risk for gastrointestinal event includes age 65 years; history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation; concurrent use of ASA, corticosteroids, and/or an anticoagulant; and/or high dose/multiple NSAID. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. ODG identifies documentation of risk for gastrointestinal events, preventing gastric ulcers induced by NSAIDs, and that Pantoprazole is being used as a second-line, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Pantoprazole. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of lumbar disc displacement without myelopathy. In addition, there is documentation of risk for gastrointestinal event. However, there is no documentation that Pantoprazole is being used as a second-line. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Pantoprazole-Protonix 20mg #60 is not medically necessary.