

Case Number:	CM14-0106599		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2014	Date of Injury:	08/29/2013
Decision Date:	10/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/09/2014

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 Internal 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 injured worker is a 53 year old male with a reported date of injury on 08/29/13. He was seen on 11/18/2014 and 6/12/2014 by his primary treating provider. He reported improvement in abdominal pain and reflux with medications. He reported improved blood pressure and unchanged diabetes as well as constipation. He was noted to be getting five to six hours of sleep every night. The examination was normal and fundus couldn't be examined. The provider requested an upper gastrointestinal (GI) series to rule out peptic ulcer or anatomical abnormality of the GI tract and probiotics for unclear reasons. Formal diagnoses included irritable bowel syndrome by history, reflux, rule out obstructive sleep apnea, hypertension, diabetes, blurred vision rule out complications of hypertension and diabetes.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Upper GI series (Test): Upheld

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

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: American College of Gastroenterology, Guideline on Evaluation of peptic ulcer. Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 18th Ed, Chapter on Dyspepsia.

Decision rationale: The patient had symptoms of reflux and abdominal pain with constipation with reported irritable bowel syndrome. No physical findings were reported. The most appropriate diagnostic study in the contemporary era for diagnosis of peptic ulcer or anatomical abnormalities of the upper GI tract includes EGD. Upper GI series is less sensitive and less specific than EGD and also is unable to provide the ability to obtain diagnostic specimens or treat certain endoscopically treatable disorders like varices and small ulcers that are bleeding. Therefore, the request for upper GI series is not recommended.

Probiotics, #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Institutes of Health NCAM

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: Mandell, Bennett, Dolin, Principles of Infectious Diseases, Chapter on Probiotics.

Decision rationale: Probiotics, although widely used as over the counter supplements by people in society, have not been recommended as standard of care for any condition by any guideline. The most compelling use of probiotics may be in the management of or prevention of antibiotic associated diarrhea, but even this remains quite controversial. As such, the request for probiotics is not recommended.