

Case Number:	CM14-0109711		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	03/04/2011
Decision Date:	09/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/14/2014

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 Florida. 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 36-year-old female who reported injury on 03/04/2011. The mechanism of injury was not provided. The diagnoses included myalgia, myositis and irritable bowel syndrome. Other therapies and surgical procedures were not provided. The diagnostic studies were not provided. The documentation of 06/05/2014 revealed the injured worker had chronic fatigue and pain. The documentation indicated the medication was effective. The injured worker was taking Bentyl, which was good for irritable bowel syndrome, and the injured worker liked topical and gabapentin and tizanidine. The specific dosages for the medications, as well as additional medications were not provided. The treatment plan included a continuation of tizanidine, gabapentin, Bentyl and flurbiprofen, and lab studies. There was a Request for Authorization submitted for review, including ferrous sulfate 325 mg tablets and laboratory studies.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ferrous Sulfate 325mg #90: Upheld

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

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: http://www.drugs.com/ferrous_sulfate.html.

Decision rationale: Per drugs.com, ferrous sulfate is used to treat iron deficiency anemia. The clinical documentation submitted for review indicated the injured worker was having chronic fatigue. However, there was a lack of documentation indicating the injured worker had a necessity for iron supplementation. There were no lab studies submitted for review. The request as submitted failed to indicate the frequency for the requested medication. Given the above, the request for Ferrous Sulfate 325mg #90 is not medically necessary.

Laboratory Studies (Unspecified Studies): 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 Page(s): 70.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS Guidelines indicate that package inserts for NSAIDs recommend period lab monitoring of a CVC and chemistry profile, including liver and renal function testing. There has been a recommendation to measure liver transaminases within 4 to 6 weeks after starting therapy, but the interval of repeat lab tests after this duration has not been established. There was a lack of documented rationale for the laboratory testing. The request as submitted failed to indicate the laboratory studies that were being requested. Given the above, the request for Laboratory Studies (Unspecified Studies) is not medically necessary.