

Case Number:	CM14-0110558		
Date Assigned:	08/01/2014	Date of Injury:	10/07/2013
Decision Date:	12/31/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/15/2014

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 Family Practice 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:

57 years old male claimant sustained a work related head injury on 10/7/13. He was diagnosed with a subarachnoid hemorrhage and a right zygomatic arch fracture on the right temporal region after a fall on a loading dock. He had been on Norco and Morphine for pain. A progress note on 6/24/14 indicated the claimant had head, chest and knee pain. Exam findings were notable for tenderness in the left hand. The right knee had medial tenderness and a positive joint shift. He was given Duexis for pain and an authorization for a knee injection was requested.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Duexis 800mg 26.6mg #90: 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): 68-69.

Decision rationale: Duexis contains an NSAID and an antihistamine (H2 blocker- for gastrointestinal symptoms). According to the MTUS guidelines, a proton pump inhibitor is to be used with NSAIDs for those with high risk of GI events such as bleeding, perforation, and concurrent anticoagulation/anti-platelet use. In this case, there is no documentation of GI events

or antiplatelet use that would place the claimant at risk. The use of an H2 blocker is not supported by the guidelines. Furthermore, NSAIDs are recommended as a second-line treatment after acetaminophen. In general, there is conflicting evidence that NSAIDs are more effective than acetaminophen for joint pain. In this case, the claimant had been on opioids for months. The claimant had been given Duexis for a month before it was discontinued. There is no indication as to the reason for initiation and discontinuation that would support medical necessity. The continued use of NSAIDs in combination with an H2 blocker such as Duexis was not medically necessary.