

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0116569		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/04/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	12/05/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/12/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/15/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/24/2014

### 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 Occupational 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 patient is a 35-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 12/5/2011, and is diagnosed with cervicgia and post-concussion syndrome. The patient was seen on 6/26/14 at which time he complained of pain radiation to the bilateral upper extremities. The report states that psychology sessions have been authorized. It is noted that the patient has loss of sexual function and he is distressed Viagra has been denied. Medications including Viagra and Vicodin 5/300 mg, one tablet every 4 hours as needed # 20 and Colace 50 mg #60 with 2 refills were prescribed. Prior Utilization Review was performed on 7/15/2014 at which Voltaren Gel 1% and Theracane was approved. Colace 50 mg #60 with 2 refills was modified to allow #60 with no refills, as the patient had been prescribed only 20 hydrocodone per month. The request for Viagra 50 mg #30 was non-certified. The prior peer reviewer noted that it is not typical for a patient to be taking this medication every day and it is not clear what the long term side effect would be. The prior peer reviewer also stated that the rationale for the use of Viagra is not sufficient as the patient is given only 20 hydrocodone which would be a dose too low to cause erectile dysfunction.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Viagra 50mg #30:** 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 does not address Viagra.

**Decision rationale:** According to literature published by the drug manufacturer, Pfizer Viagra (sildenafil) is used for the treatment of erectile dysfunction of either organic (medical condition) or psychogenic (psychological) cause. The medical records do not establish an organic cause of ED in this 35 year old male. Further, amount of hydrocodone the patient is being prescribed is not likely to cause testosterone imbalance. Additionally, it is noted that the patient has been authorized to undergo psychological counseling which could address psychological cause of the reported sexual dysfunction. Therefore, Viagra 50mg #30 is not medically necessary.

**Colace 50mg #60 2 refills:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDsGI symptoms & Cardiovascular risk.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines does not address Colace.

**Decision rationale:** The patient is being prescribed opioids, and constipation is a side effect of opioids. It is acknowledged that the amount of Hydrocodone the patient is on would not support the requested amount of Colace. However, the purpose of this review is to address medical necessity, and the request for Colace is medically necessary.