

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0118789		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/12/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/12/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/22/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/29/2014

### 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 Orthopedic Surgeon 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 request for Amitiza 24mcg #60 with 3 refills is certified. The California MTUS Guidelines recommend the prophylactic treatment of constipation for patients taking opioids. The Official Disability Guidelines further state, Amitiza is a second line option for opioid induced constipation treatment that shows efficacy and tolerability in treating opioid induced constipation without affecting injured workers' analgesic response to pain medications. The medical records provided indicate the injured worker had previously tried Miralax and was not successful. The injured worker reported that Amitiza had been very effective, and was an important part of her current medication regimen. Based on the failure of a first line treatment, the request is supported. As such, the request for Amitiza 24mcg #60 with 3 refills is certified.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Amitiza 24mcg #60 with 3 refills:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pain Chapter (updated 07/10/14): Lubiprostone (Amitiza), Opioid-induced constipation treatment.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 76-80. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain, Opioid-induced constipation treatment.

**Decision rationale:** The request for Amitiza 24mcg #60 with 3 refills is certified. The California MTUS Guidelines recommend the prophylactic treatment of constipation for patients taking opioids. The Official Disability Guidelines further state, Amitiza is a second line option for opioid induced constipation treatment that shows efficacy and tolerability in treating opioid induced constipation without affecting injured workers' analgesic response to pain medications. The medical records provided indicate the injured worker had previously tried Miralax and was not successful. The injured worker reported that Amitiza had been very effective, and was an important part of her current medication regimen. Based on the failure of a first line treatment, the request is supported. As such, the request for Amitiza 24mcg #60 with 3 refills is certified.

**Prozac 20mg #30 with 3 refills:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) Page(s): 107.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antidepressants for chronic pain Page(s): 13-16.

**Decision rationale:** The request for Prozac 20 mg quantity 30 with 3 refills is non-certified. The California MTUS Guidelines state tricyclics are generally considered a first line agent unless they are ineffective, poorly tolerated, or contraindicated. SSRIs are controversial based on controlled trials. It has been suggested that the main role of SSRIs may be in addressing psychological symptoms associated with chronic pain. More information is needed regarding the role of SSRIs in pain. The medical records provided indicate an ongoing prescription for Prozac since at least 04/15/2014. There is no indication the injured worker was suffering from depression to warrant the use of an SSRI. There is also no indication as to the efficacy of the medication. Nonetheless, the guidelines state that more information is needed regarding the role of SSRIs in pain. Based on this information, the request is not supported. As such, the request for Prozac 20 mg quantity 30 with 3 refills is not medically necessary.