

Case Number:	CM14-0134581		
Date Assigned:	08/27/2014	Date of Injury:	09/03/2013
Decision Date:	09/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/20/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 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:

This is 48-year-old female with a date of injury of 9/3/13. The mechanism of injury was not noted. A UR review dated 6/19/14, certified Omeprazole (Prilosec) 20mg #60. A UR review dated 4/17/14, approved Prilosec 40mg #30. A UR review dated 3/28/14, denied the request for Pantoprazole 20mg (Protonix). On 3/11/14, it was noted she was dispensed Norco, Naproxen 550mg and Pantoprazole (20mg). On 4/8/14, it was noted she was prescribed Vicodin, Naproxen 500mg and Prilosec 40mg. On 5/6/14 no notation of medications dispensed. On 6/5/14, she was prescribed Norco, Naproxen 550mg and Omeprazole 20mg (Prilosec). On 7/31/14, it was noted she was prescribed Norco, Naproxen 550mg and Protnix (pantoprazole) 20mg. On 7/21/14, she complained of pain, swelling and stiffness of the right knee. She also states the knee locks up. The pain is moderate and she takes Naprosyn for pain. On exam the right knee medial and lateral joint lines have moderate tenderness. There is no calf tenderness. The diagnostic impression is medial meniscus tear and lateral meniscus tear of the right knee, chronic pain of the right knee, and dyspepsia. Treatment to date: medication management A UR decision dated 7/22/14 denied a request for Protonix 80mg. The Protonix was denied because while the medical records submitted for review identified concurrent use of NSAIDs and a diagnosis of dyspepsia, there was no documentation of compelling rationale for medical need of this medication to be dispensed or prescribed by a physician, as PPI's (proton pump inhibitors) are readily available over the counter. ODG guidelines indicate that "If a PPI is used, omeprazole OTC tablets or lansoprazole 24HR OTC are recommended for an equivalent clinical efficacy and significant cost savings". The medical necessity for Protonix 80mg has not been fully substantiated and is non-certified. As this medication is indicated, it should be obtained OTC.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Protonix 80 mg, eighty count: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter, Proton Pump Inhibitors Section.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI Symptoms & Cardiovascular Risk Page(s): 68. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: FDA Protonix.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and the FDA support proton pump inhibitors in the treatment of patients with GI disorders such as gastric/duodenal ulcers, GERD, erosive esophagitis, or patients utilizing chronic NSAID therapy. However, there were numerous dates of either Protonix or Prilosec prescribed and/or dispensed to the patient. In addition, it was noted on 4/17/14, a UR approved Prilosec 40mg #30; 6/19/14, a UR approved Prilosec 20mg #60; and on 3/28/14, a UR denied Protonix 20mg. It is unclear which medication the patient is currently on and which PPI she has actually benefited from. In addition, Protonix is only available as a 20mg and 40mg tablet. Therefore, the request for Protonix 80mg #80 is not medically necessary.