

Case Number:	CM14-0143512		
Date Assigned:	09/10/2014	Date of Injury:	03/14/2003
Decision Date:	12/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/04/2014

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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 54-year-old male with a 3/14/03 date of injury. At the time (8/5/14) of the request for authorization for ASA 81 mg. #30, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain that radiates to the lower extremities) and objective (limited range of motion of the lumbar spine due to pain) findings, current diagnoses (gastroesophageal reflux disease secondary to NSAIDs, history of rectal bleeding, moderate to severe gastritis, lumbar disc radiculitis, lumbar spine spondylosis, and lumbar disc syndrome), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Relafen and Aspirin)). There is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Aspirin use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ASA 81 mg #30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) Page(s): 67-68. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of moderate to severe osteoarthritis pain, acute low back pain, chronic low back pain, or exacerbations of chronic pain, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of NSAIDs. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of gastroesophageal reflux disease secondary to NSAIDs, history of rectal bleeding, moderate to severe gastritis, lumbar disc radiculitis, lumbar spine spondylosis, and lumbar disc syndrome. However, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Aspirin, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Aspirin use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for ASA 81 mg #30 is not medically necessary.