

Case Number:	CM14-0150085		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	05/23/2013
Decision Date:	10/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/15/2014

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 Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 injured worker is a 53-year-old male who reported an injury on 05/23/2013 due to stumbling into the dolly he was pushing. Diagnoses included lacerations of both legs, post-traumatic lymphedema, likely results from early developed cellulitis, knees, ankle pain, and swelling, hypertension due to use of medications and stress. Past medical treatment included physical therapy, medications, compression stockings, and water exercises. Diagnostic testing included lower extremity venous Doppler ultrasound (date was not provided), and MRI of the leg. There is no history of pertinent surgery. The injured worker complained of lower back pain bilateral, radiating to both buttocks and pain to bilateral knees and soreness on 08/01/2014. The injured worker stated there was swelling to the knee pain with pressure and tingling sensation and cyanotic discoloration. The injured worker stated he had a hot sensation, swelling, and changing color at the ankles, with occasional tingling on the bottom of both of his feet. The injured worker complained of increased frequency of urination, during the day, 2 to 3 times an hour, and 2 to 3 times during sleep. The injured worker stated his blood pressure had not been controlled and was maintained around 150/95. The physical examination revealed 2+ pitting edema starting at the mid-calf area and cyanotic discoloration of the bilateral legs from below the knees. In addition there was tenderness bilaterally to the paravertebral muscles. Medications included Losartan 100 mg, spironolactone 50 mg, furosemide 20 mg, and potassium chloride 20 mEq. The treatment plan is for 3 months' supply of potassium chloride 20. The rationale for the request was not submitted. The Request for Authorization Form was not submitted.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Three Month Supply of Potassium Chloride 20: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medline Plus, Potassium, Online database.

Decision rationale: The request for Three (3) month supply of Potassium Chloride 20 is not medically necessary. The injured worker complained of hot sensation and swelling, and change in color at the ankles. The injured worker was diagnosed with post traumatic lymphedema. The injured worker is being treated for lymphedema and hypertension with medications including losartan, furosemide, spironolactone and potassium. Medline Plus states potassium is "essential for the proper functioning of the heart, kidneys, muscles, nerves, and digestive system." Certain diseases (e.g., kidney disease and gastrointestinal disease with vomiting and diarrhea) and drugs, especially diuretics ('water pills'), remove potassium from the body. Potassium supplements are taken to replace potassium losses and prevent potassium deficiency. The injured worker is prescribed Losartan and Lasix, which can interfere with the injured worker's electrolyte levels; however, the documentation did not include laboratory monitoring which indicated the injured worker's electrolyte levels. Additionally, the request does not indicate the frequency at which the medication is prescribed, and the quantity of the medication being requested in order to determine the necessity of the medication. Therefore given the above the request for Three Month Supply of Potassium Chloride 20 is not medically necessary.