

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0151124		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/19/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	12/06/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/20/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/08/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/16/2014

### 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:

There were 154 pages provided for this review. There was a primary treating physician's report. The patient had chronic abdominal pain. Tramadol is helpful. There had been acute pain for two days. The assessment is posttraumatic stress disorder and generalized abdominal pain. The patient is status post a gunshot wound. She is working modified duty. The request for authorization was for Omeprazole 20 mg number 60 and Tramadol hundred 50 mg number 60. It was signed on August 27, 2014. As of July 10, 2014 she was described as a 29-year-old female who underwent a ventral hernia repair with mesh in February 2013. It was complicated with an infection. She underwent removal and placement of the mesh in July 2013 and again required removal in October 2013. She complained of abdominal pain in the mid-abdomen which was sharp and it was worse when lifting weights. They will do a CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis. It showed a midline incisional hernia which contained fat only, a unilateral right kidney which was mildly hypertrophic and diffuse fatty liver infiltration. There was a note from August 12, 2014 there was a panel qualified medical evaluation. She works as a subway food preparation worker. She sustained a work injury. She was working at the cash register and an assailant tried to rob the facility. She handed the Romberg money that the person still shot her in the abdomen. The wound did not close properly. She had surgery initially on February 1, 2012 and still had wound healing issues.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Omeprazole 20 mg, QTY: 60: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation University of Michigan Health System, Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD), Ann Arbor (MI) University of Michigan Health System; 2012, 12p

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 68 of 127.

**Decision rationale:** There were 154 pages provided for this review. There was a primary treating physician's report. The patient had chronic abdominal pain. Tramadol is helpful. There had been acute pain for two days. The assessment is posttraumatic stress disorder and generalized abdominal pain. The patient is status post a gunshot wound. She is working modified duty. The request for authorization was for Omeprazole 20 mg number 60 and Tramadol hundred 50 mg number 60. It was signed on August 27, 2014. As of July 10, 2014 she was described as a 29-year-old female who underwent a ventral hernia repair with mesh in February 2013. It was complicated with an infection. She underwent removal and placement of the mesh in July 2013 and again required removal in October 2013. She complained of abdominal pain in the mid-abdomen which was sharp and it was worse when lifting weights. They will do a CT scan of the abdomen and pelvis. It showed a midline incisional hernia which contained fat only, a unilateral right kidney which was mildly hypertrophic and diffuse fatty liver infiltration. There was a note from August 12, 2014 there was a panel qualified medical evaluation. She works as a subway food preparation worker. She sustained a work injury. She was working at the cash register and an assailant tried to rob the facility. She handed the Romberg money that the person still shot her in the abdomen. The wound did not close properly. She had surgery initially on February 1, 2012 and still had wound healing issues.

**Tramadol 150 mg, QTY: 60:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Criteria for use of Opioids.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain interventions and treatments Page(s): 12,13 83 and 113 of 127..

**Decision rationale:** Per the MTUS, Tramadol is an opiate analogue medication, not recommended as a first-line therapy. The MTUS based on Cochrane studies found very small pain improvements, and adverse events caused participants to discontinue the medicine. Most important, there are no long term studies to allow it to be recommended for use past six months. A long term use of is therefore not supported.