

Case Number:	CM14-0153667		
Date Assigned:	09/23/2014	Date of Injury:	03/20/1998
Decision Date:	11/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/13/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/19/2014

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 Illinois. 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 56 year old female with a date of injury on 3/28/1998 who has had cervical fusion surgery. The latest attached clinical note from July 21, 2014 states she complains of dropping items from hands, chronic neck and hip pain for which she is using a home exercise program. She has chronic kidney disease, hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus, depression, anxiety, and insomnia. Her exam was noted for bilateral Tinel's sign.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Floranex (Lactobacillus) Q Day #30: 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 Drugs.com/search.php/searchterm=Floranex

Decision rationale: Floranex is a compound consisting of lactobacillus acidophilus and bulgaricus. Lactobacillus acidophilus and bulgaricus may work by helping the body maintain normal consistency of bacteria in the stomach and intestines. Lactobacillus acidophilus and bulgaricus has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat any disease, and has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration for safety, effectiveness, or purity.

All potential risks and/or advantages of lactobacillus acidophilus and bulgaricus may not be known. Additionally, there are no regulated manufacturing standards in place for these compounds. Some marketed herbal supplements have been found to be contaminated with toxic metals or other drugs. There is no medical documentation stating the worker has diarrhea or irritable bowel syndrome. In addition, this substance is not addressed in the Official Disability Guidelines, Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule or the American College of Occupational Medicine guidelines. Therefore, the request for Floranex (Lactobacillus) Q Day #30 is not medically necessary.