

Case Number:	CM14-0163988		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	06/22/2006
Decision Date:	11/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/18/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/06/2014

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 and 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:

The injured worker is a 59 years old male who reported an injury on 06/22/2006 when he was involved in an accident with an 18 wheeled truck that was making an illegal lane change. The injured worker lost consciousness for about 8 hours after the injury and was hospitalized and kept in an induced coma for 8 days due to various injuries. The diagnoses included erectile dysfunction. Physical examination dated 08/25/2014 revealed ongoing complaints regarding his erectile dysfunction. The injured worker stated that he started having problems after his injury. His main difficulty was to maintain erections after managing to initiate one. He reported that he would lose the erection because of severe back pain and inability to get full tumescence. He also described a diminished libido that made sexual activity less desirable. The injured worker had a urology QME. The recommendation was felt that the use of PDE 5 inhibitors was contraindicated in the patient because of his history of cardiac disease requiring stents and occasional use of nitroglycerin. It was suggested that other treatment options such as a vacuum pump, injection therapy with vasoactive agents or surgical placement of a penile prosthesis. The injured worker continued to have difficulty with getting and maintaining erections. He tried to masturbate, but it took too long and was tiring. The patient sees a cardiologist on a private basis. The patient stated that he has not used nitroglycerin for a long time and that he would like to try oral therapy after making sure that he gets the approval of his treating cardiologist. It was reported that if cleared by the cardiologist, the injured worker could try the PDE 5 inhibitor agents either in an oral form by using Cialis 10 mg to 20 mg as needed at the time of intended sexual activity or by using Staxyn 10 mg sublingually. Current medications included Clopidogrel, Hydrocodone-Acetaminophen, Lisinopril, Aspirin, Atrovastatin, Bupropion, Atenolol, Tramadol, and Gabapentin. The treatment plan included medications. The Request for Authorization was not submitted for review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cialis or Starxyn after cardiac clearance: 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 Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Drugs.com: <http://www.drugs.com/staxyn.html>

Decision rationale: The request for Cialis or Starxyn after cardiac clearance is not medically necessary. The California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, ACOEM, and Official Disability Guidelines do not address PDE 5 inhibitors directly. Drugs.com was referenced. Drugs.com states that Staxyn relaxes muscles and increases blood flow to particular areas of the body. This medication is usually taken only as needed, about 60 minutes before sexual activity. The medicine can help achieve an erection when sexual stimulation occurs. An erection will not occur just by taking a pill. It also states if you are using a nitrate drug for chest pain or heart problems, this medication is not recommended. The injured worker did report that he has not taken nitrates in a long time. It was not reported that the injured worker had the cardiac clearance. Furthermore, this request does not provide specifics regarding the medications. The medications were only indicated after cardiac clearance. Therefore, this request is not medically necessary.