

Case Number:	CM14-0171057		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	07/07/2008
Decision Date:	11/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/16/2014

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 Family Practice, 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:

55 yr. old female claimant sustained a work injury on 7/7/08 involving the low back. She was diagnosed with arthritis of the spine. A progress note on 9/5/14 indicated the claimant had 4/10 back pain. Exam findings were notable for tenderness at the L4 spine. She had radiofrequency and epidural injections of the spine performed previously. The physician provided her with Vimovo for pain. She was previously on Celebrex.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Vimovo 500/20mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.drugs.com/pro/vimovo.html>

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

Decision rationale: Vimovo contains and NSAID and a proton pump inhibitor. According to the MTUS guidelines, a proton pump inhibitor that is to be used with NSAIDs for those with high risk of GI events such as bleeding, perforation, and concurrent anti-coagulation/anti-platelet use. In this case, there is no documentation of GI events or antiplatelet use that would place the claimant at risk. Therefore, the continued use of Vimovo is not medically necessary.

