

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0177449		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/30/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/09/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/09/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/30/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/27/2014

### 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:

The applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for headaches, neck pain, wrist pain, jaw pain, and heel pain reportedly associated with an industrial contusion injury of June 9, 2014. Thus far, the applicant has been treated with the following medications: Analgesic medications; transfer of care to and from various providers in various specialties; unspecified amounts of physical therapy; topical agents; and work restrictions. In a Utilization Review Report dated September 30, 2014, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for Zofran. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. In a progress note dated October 30, 2014, the applicant reported ongoing complaints of headaches and neck pain. The applicant was having associated symptoms of photophobia, nausea, and vomiting associated with her headaches. The attending provider stated that Zofran was working well to control her nausea and vomiting. The attending provider also suggested that the applicant employ Pamelor for prophylactic purposes to prevent further headaches. The attending provider stated that ongoing usage of Zofran had ameliorated symptoms of migraine headaches and had allowed the applicant to remain at the workplace during acute migraine attacks.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**RETROSPECTIVE: Zofran 4mg as needed for the last 3.5 months: Overturned**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pain Chapter; and on the Non-MTUS <http://www.drugs.com/pdr/ondansetron-hydrochloride.html>

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 47. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medscape, Migraine Headache article

**Decision rationale:** While the MTUS does not specifically address the topic of Zofran (ondansetron) usage, the MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 3, page 47 does stipulate that an attending provider incorporate some discussion of efficacy of medication for the particular condition into his choice of pharmacotherapy. Here, the attending provider has posited that ongoing usage of Zofran (ondansetron) has attenuated breakthrough migraine headaches and/or attendant symptoms of nausea and vomiting if and when they arise. The attending provider has posited that on and off, sporadic usage of Zofran has allowed the applicant to continue working, even during acute migraine headache spells. Employing the same was, on balance, indicated, particularly in light of the fact that Medscape further notes that antiemetics such as Zofran can be employed to treat acute migraine headaches, as apparently flared up in this particular case from time to time. Therefore, the request is medically necessary.