

Case Number:	CM14-0182106		
Date Assigned:	11/06/2014	Date of Injury:	04/02/2014
Decision Date:	12/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/03/2014

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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 37-year-old male with a 4/2/14 date of injury. At the time (10/16/14) of request for authorization for Pantoprazole Protonix 20mg, #60 take 1-2 tab daily before naproxen, there is documentation of subjective (knee pain rated 1.5/10 with naproxen and 2.5/10 without naproxen) and objective (muscle tone without atrophy in bilateral upper and lower extremities and 5/5 motor strength of bilateral upper and lower extremities) findings, current diagnoses (pain in joint lower leg), and treatment to date (physical therapy and medications (including ongoing treatment with naproxen and Protonix)). 11/17/14 medical report identifies patient takes naproxen with reduction in knee pain, but has significant dyspepsia and heartburn which is relieved with Protonix, and the patient has tried Zantac, Nexium, and Prilosec without benefit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pantoprazole Protonix 20mg, #60 take 1-2 tab daily before naproxen: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs Page(s): 69.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk Page(s): 68-69. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (Chronic), Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) Other

Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that risk for gastrointestinal event includes age > 65 years; history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation; concurrent use of ASA, corticosteroids, and/or an anticoagulant; and/or high dose/multiple NSAID. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. ODG identifies documentation of risk for gastrointestinal events, preventing gastric ulcers induced by NSAIDs, and that Protonix is being used as a second-line, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Protonix. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of a diagnosis of pain in joint lower leg. In addition, given documentation of ongoing treatment with naproxen with significant dyspepsia and heartburn which is relieved with Protonix and the patient has tried Zantac, Nexium, and Prilosec without benefit, there is documentation of gastrointestinal events, preventing gastric ulcers induced by NSAIDs, and that Protonix is being used as a second-line. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Pantoprazole Protonix 20mg, #60 take 1-2 tab daily before naproxen is medically necessary.