

Case Number:	CM14-0031233		
Date Assigned:	03/19/2014	Date of Injury:	06/07/2006
Decision Date:	05/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/03/2014

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:

The patient is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for chronic neck pain and headaches reportedly associated with an industrial injury of June 7, 2006. Thus far, the patient has been treated with the following: Analgesic medications; earlier cervical fusion surgery; attorney representation; and extensive periods of time off of work, on total temporary disability. In a Utilization Review Report of January 2, 2014, the claims administrator denied a request for Sumatriptan (Imitrex), stating that the patient did not carry a diagnosis of migraine headaches for which Imitrex or Sumatriptan was indicated. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. In an earlier note of July 26, 2013, the patient was described as carrying a primary diagnosis of chronic neck pain status post multiple cervical fusion surgeries and chronic shoulder pain status post shoulder surgery. The applicant's case and care were seemingly complicated by diabetes. She was off of work, on total temporary disability, at that point in time. Additionally, the patient has issues with morbid obesity which have likewise delayed her recovery, it appears. On September 23, 2013, the patient was again placed off of work, on total temporary disability. She had a BMI of 44. Operating diagnoses at that point included obesity, shoulder impingement syndrome, chronic neck pain, and right cardiac failure. Sumatriptan was listed as one of the medications on the profile at that point in time but was not seemingly discussed at any length. On November 4, 2013, the patient was described as having neck pain radiating to the shoulder blades with associated headaches. The patient was again placed off of work, on total temporary disability. Her BMI was 41. Melatonin was suggested for sleep, along with Restoril on bad nights.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

SUMATRIPTAN 100MG 1 BY MOUTH ONSET OF HEADACHE #14: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation IMITREX (SUMATRIPTAN) - GLAXO SMITH KLINE

Decision rationale: The MTUS does not address the topic. As noted in the Physicians' Drug Reference (PDR), Sumatriptan or Imitrex is indicated in the treatment of acute migraine attacks with or without aura and in the treatment of acute cluster headaches in adults. In this case, however, the documentation on file seemingly suggests a diagnosis of cervicogenic headaches (headaches caused by underlying neck pain). Imitrex is not indicated in the treatment of the same, per the PDR. In this case, it is further noted that the attending provider has not proffered any compelling rationale or narrative for ongoing usage of Imitrex. The attending provider has only briefly discussed usage of Sumatriptan or Imitrex in several progress notes, referenced above. There is no specific mention of migraine headaches and/or cluster headaches for which Sumatriptan would be indicated. Therefore, the request is not certified.