

Case Number:	CM14-0038582		
Date Assigned:	06/27/2014	Date of Injury:	11/27/2004
Decision Date:	07/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/01/2014

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 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 43 year old woman who was injured at work on November 27, 2004. The nature of the injury, while not specifically described in the records, was apparently to her right upper extremity. She is requesting review of a denial for the following: A Helicobacter Pylori-breath test. The medical records corroborate ongoing care for a number of medical conditions since the injury. Her diagnoses include the following: Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease, Secondary to NSAIDs; Erosive Gastritis, Secondary to NSAIDs; Irritable Bowel Syndrome (Mixed Type); Sleep Disorder; Status-Post H. Pylori Treatment; and Severe Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. In her last office visit she was described as having normal bowel movements with less acid reflux and gastritis. Treatment included: Dexilant (a proton pump inhibitor); Ranitidine; Carafate; and Probiotics. A H. Pylori breath test was recommended.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

H. Pylori-breath test: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation cigna.com/healthinfo: H. Pylori; nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/.

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: US National Library of Medicine/NIH National Institutes of Health; available at: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/007501.htm> and UpToDate; available at www.uptodate.com/indications and diagnostic tests for Helicobacter pylori infection.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines/Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the Official Disability Guidelines do not comment on the use of a H. Pylori breath test. There were no guidelines from National Guidelines Clearinghouse on this test either. The National Library of Medicine, referenced above, provides an article on "Tests for H. Pylori." This article states that testing is most often done to diagnose a H. Pylori infection if the patient currently has or has a history of a stomach or duodenal ulcer and after treatment for a H. Pylori infection, to make sure the treatment was effective. The referenced article in Up-To-Date provides similar recommendations in testing for H. Pylori. The Breath Test is one means of detecting H. Pylori. When it is used patients must stop taking antibiotics, bismuth containing medications such as Pepto Bismol, and proton pump inhibitors for two weeks. In reviewing the medical records, there is no medical justification provided by the treating physician that supports the use of this test. The patient's symptoms are described as improving. Further, there is no documentation to indicate that the patient currently has or has a history of a stomach or duodenal ulcer. The H. Pylori breath test is therefore determined to be not medically necessary.