

Case Number:	CM14-0041953		
Date Assigned:	06/30/2014	Date of Injury:	07/28/2004
Decision Date:	08/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/08/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 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:

This is a 41-year-old male patient with an injury date of 7/28/2004. The mechanism of injury is not documented. On a progress note dated 11/20/2012, the patient had responded well to Edex, an injectable form of Viagra (Alprostadil) 50mg. This response provided confirmatory evidence that the erectile dysfunction is neurogenic in nature. There may also be some hormonal problems from hypogonadism secondary to chronic narcotic use. The diagnostic impression is erectile dysfunction. Treatment to date: medication management. Utilization Review decision dated 4/1/2014 modified the request for Viagra 100mg 30 tablets per month for 6 months to Viagra 100mg daily prn. (as needed) 15 tablets per month for 6 months. The rationale for modification was that 30 tablets was an excessive amount to be used.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Viagra 100mg by mouth (30 tablets per month for 6 months): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Urologic Association treatment guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The American Urological Assoc. Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The use of Viagra for erectile dysfunction is not mentioned in CA MTUS, ACOEM, and ODG guidelines. The American Urological Association guidelines recommend Viagra as the first line therapy for erectile dysfunction unless contraindicated by an in-person evaluation that includes sexual, medical, psychosocial histories, and laboratory tests to identify comorbid conditions. The patient's erectile dysfunction was proven to be neurogenic by confirmation of the test with Edex. It was also noted that the 100mg tablet was much more effective and gave the results the patient desired. However, it is unclear why 30 tablets per month were needed for a 1-month supply, along with the fact that this request is for a 6-month supply, is excessive. Therefore, the request for Viagra 100mg by mouth (30 tablets per month for 6 months) was not medically necessary.