

Case Number:	CM14-0048521		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	02/23/2001
Decision Date:	10/01/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/20/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/28/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Connecticut. 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:

After careful review of the medical records, this is a 71 year old female with complaints of low back radiating into the legs. The date of injury is 2/23/01 and the mechanism of injury is not elicited. At the time of request for Quaalun #180, there is subjective (low back pain, L>R leg pain) and objective (positive bilateral straight leg raise, decreased sensation lower extremities bilateral) findings, imaging findings (none provided), diagnoses (lumbar radiculopathy), and treatment to date (medications, exercises). Quaalun is antimalarial drug indicated only for the treatment of uncomplicated Plasmodium Falciparum malaria. Quaalun use for the treatment of nocturnal leg cramps may result in serious and life-threatening hemolytic reactions such as thrombocytopenia and hemolytic uremic syndrome/thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. Chronic renal impairment has been reported. The risks are significant and the benefits need to be clearly outlined. Also, other treatment may be trialed first such as Naftidofuryl, Diltiazem, and Vitamin B complex.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Quaalun, 180 count: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The National Guidelines Clearinghouse. Assessment: Symptomatic Treatment for Muscle Cramps (an evidences based review). Report of the Therapeutics and Technology Assessment Subcommittee of the American Academy of

Neurology, Bibliography Sources. Neurology. 2010 February 23, 74(8): 691-9 (36 References)
PubMed External Website Policy.

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: Quaalquin prescribing information

Decision rationale: MTUS, ODG, ACOEM guidelines are silent on the use of Quinine derivatives. Per prescribing information, Quaalquin is antimalarial drug indicated only for the treatment of uncomplicated Plasmodium Falciparum malaria. Quaalquin use for the treatment of nocturnal leg cramps may result in serious and life-threatening hemolytic reactions such as thrombocytopenia and hemolytic uremic syndrome/thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. Chronic renal impairment has been reported. The risks are significant and the benefits need to be clearly outlined. Also, other treatment may be trialed first such as Naftidofuryl, Diltiazem, and vitamin B complex. Therefore, the request for Quaalquin is not medically necessary.