

Case Number:	CM14-0066372		
Date Assigned:	07/11/2014	Date of Injury:	11/12/1998
Decision Date:	08/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/09/2014

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 an 82-year-old female with an 11/2/98 date of injury. At the time (3/20/14) of request for authorization for Ambien 5mg tablet, take one tablet every day for 30 days #30 with 2 refills, there is documentation of subjective (lower back pain radiating to the bilateral lower extremities with weakness) and objective (tenderness to palpation over the lumbar paraspinal muscles with decreased range of motion) findings, current diagnoses (spondylosis without myelopathy, lumbar intervertebral disc displacement, lumbar degenerative disc disease, and lumbar radiculitis), and treatment to date (Ambien since at least 12/8/13). There is no documentation of insomnia, short-term (two to six weeks) treatment of insomnia, and functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of use of Ambien.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ambien 5mg tablet, take one tablet every day for 30 days #30 with 2 refills: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Chronic Pain Chapter, Zolpidem.

Decision rationale: MTUS does not address this issue. ODG identifies Ambien (zolpidem) as a prescription short-acting nonbenzodiazepine hypnotic, which is approved for the short-term (usually two to six weeks) treatment of insomnia. 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. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of spondylosis without myelopathy, lumbar intervertebral disc displacement, lumbar degenerative disc disease, and lumbar radiculitis. However, there is no documentation of insomnia. In addition, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Ambien since at least 12/8/13, there is no documentation of short-term (two to six weeks) treatment of insomnia. Furthermore, there is no documentation 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 as a result of use of Ambien. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Ambien 5mg tablet, take one tablet every day for 30 days #30 with 2 refills is not medically necessary.