

Case Number:	CM14-0097111		
Date Assigned:	07/28/2014	Date of Injury:	11/04/2009
Decision Date:	11/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/25/2014

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 Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 50-year-old male who was injured on November 4, 2009. The patient continued to experience pain in his neck and lower back. Physical examination was notable for decreased range of motion of the cervical spine, spasm/tenderness to the thoracic spine, and hyperreflexia with bilateral Hoffmanns and Babinski. Diagnoses included spinal cord injury unspecified, and posterior cervical laminectomy syndrome. Treatment included surgery and medications. Request for authorization for Cialis #15 was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cialis 5mg, qty 15: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Cialis Prescribing Information Professional Monograph (FDA), <http://www.drugs.com/pro/ Cialis.html>

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics, November 14, 2011, Issue 1377p. 89: Tadalafil (Cialis) for Signs and Symptoms of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia

Decision rationale: Cialis is tadalafil, a selective phosphodiesterase (PDE)-5 inhibitor. It causes relaxation of the smooth muscle and vasculature of the prostate, bladder and urethra, but its mechanism of action in relieving symptoms of prostatic obstruction is unclear. Many clinical trials have shown that PDE-5 inhibitors can relieve the urinary symptoms of BPH, but do not significantly improve urinary flow rates. The most common adverse effects of PDE-5 inhibitors have been headache, facial flushing, nasal congestion and dyspepsia. Back pain and leg pain can occur. Prolonged erection (priapism) has occurred rarely. Transient visual disturbances can also occur. Cialis might be helpful in relieving some urinary symptoms associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia. However, the mechanism of action is not clear, improvements in urinary flow rates have been limited, and participants in double-blind trials may have known whether they were taking the active drug or a placebo. There is no evidence that tadalafil is as effective for this indication as an alpha1 blocker, which costs much less. The request is not medically necessary.