

Case Number:	CM14-0201503		
Date Assigned:	12/11/2014	Date of Injury:	05/09/2005
Decision Date:	01/30/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/02/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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 57-year-old injured worker who sustained a work-related injury on May 9 2005. Subsequently, the patient developed a chronic back pain. The patient was treated with pain medications, lumbar surgery, left knee surgery, right wrist surgery and right shoulder surgery. According to a progress report dated on October 10, 2014, the patient was complaining of low back pain radiating to both lower extremities with tingling and burning sensation. The patient physical examination demonstrated lumbar tenderness with reduced range of motion. The patient was diagnosed with myofascial pain, lumbar sprain and myofascial pain. The patient was treated with the Neurontin, and tramadol. The provider requested authorization for Omeprazole.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Omeprazole 20mg per 10/10/14 Quantity 60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs Page(s): 68-69.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk Page(s): 68.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS guidelines, Omeprazole is indicated when NSAID are used in patients with intermediate or high risk for gastrointestinal events. The risk for

gastrointestinal events are: (1) age > 65 years; (2) history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation; (3) concurrent use of ASA, corticosteroids, and/or an anticoagulant; or (4) high dose/multiple NSAID (e.g., NSAID + low-dose ASA). Recent studies tend to show that H. Pylori does not act synergistically with NSAIDS to develop gastroduodenal lesions. There is no documentation that the patient has GI issue that requires the use of Prilosec. There is no documentation in the patient's chart supporting that she is at intermediate or high risk for developing gastrointestinal events. Therefore, Omeprazole 20mg prescription is not medically necessary.