

Case Number:	CM14-0207508		
Date Assigned:	12/19/2014	Date of Injury:	06/14/1993
Decision Date:	02/18/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/10/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: Texas, Ohio, California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine

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 applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for major depressive disorder reportedly associated with an industrial injury of August 4, 1989. In a Utilization Review Report dated November 11, 2014, the claims administrator denied request for Cialis while approving six psychotropic medication management office visits, Wellbutrin, and Xanax. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. In a progress note dated October 1, 2014, the applicant was given prescriptions for Wellbutrin, Xanax, and Cialis, the later of which was endorsed for sexual dysfunction purposes. The applicant continued to have issues with sleep disturbance. The attending provider stated that the applicant had been using the aforementioned medications for many years. There was no explicit discussion of medication efficacy on this occasion. On September 2, 2014, the applicant reported issues with worsening depression, psychological stress, financial stress, and attendant insomnia. Wellbutrin for depression, Xanax for anxiety, and Cialis for sexual dysfunction were endorsed. In an earlier note dated October 10, 2013, the applicant was again described as having issues with depression, tearfulness, and hopelessness. Wellbutrin, Xanax, and Cialis were again endorsed, again without any explicit discussion of medication efficacy. The applicant's work status was not clearly stated, although it did not appear that the applicant was working.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cialis 20 mg #3: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation 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 American Urologic Association (AUA), Management of Erectile Dysfunction Guidelines.

Decision rationale: 1. No, the request for Cialis, a 5-phosphodiesterase inhibitor, was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. The MTUS does not address the topic. While the American Urologic Association (AUA) does acknowledge that 5-phosphodiesterase inhibitors such as Cialis do represent the first line of therapy for erectile dysfunction, as is allegedly present here, the AUA qualifies its position by noting that applicant's on 5-phosphodiesterase inhibitor therapy should be periodically followed up upon to ensure efficacy, presence or absence of side effects, and/or changes in health status. Here, the applicant simply received refills of Cialis on multiple office visits, referenced above, without any explicit discussion of whether or not ongoing usage of Cialis had or had not proven effective. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.