

Case Number:	CM15-0101915		
Date Assigned:	06/04/2015	Date of Injury:	07/16/2013
Decision Date:	07/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/27/2015

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: California, Arizona, Maryland
Certification(s)/Specialty: Psychiatry

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 injured worker is a 63 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on July 16, 2013. He has reported insomnia, depressed mood, poor concentration, low energy, irritability, and anxiety and has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, partial remission, chronic pain, acid reflux, and alcohol use disorder, in sustained remission. Treatment has included physical therapy, injections, surgery, and medications. Thought process was noted as linear, intermittent tangential. There were no delusions, homicidal ideation, and no self-injury thoughts. Attention and cooperation was impaired, loses the line of the interview episodically, and requires repetition of the questions and redirection. The treatment request included Seroquel.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Seroquel 50mg QTY: 60 with 1 refill: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Mental Illness and Stress.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness & Stress Atypical Antipsychotics, Quetiapine (Seroquel).

Decision rationale: ODG states "Quetiapine is not recommended as a first-line treatment. There is insufficient evidence to recommend atypical antipsychotics (eg, quetiapine, risperidone) for conditions covered in ODG. Antipsychotic drugs are commonly prescribed off-label for a number of disorders outside of their FDA-approved indications, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. In a new study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, four of the antipsychotics most commonly prescribed off label for use in patients over 40 were found to lack both safety and effectiveness. The four atypical antipsychotics were aripiprazole (Abilify), olanzapine (Zyprexa), quetiapine (Seroquel), and risperidone (Risperdal). The authors concluded that off-label use of these drugs in people over 40 should be short-term, and undertaken with caution." The request for Seroquel 50mg quantity 60 with 1 refill is excessive and not medically necessary. The injured worker has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, recurrent episode, partial remission. There is insufficient evidence to recommend atypical antipsychotics (eg, quetiapine, risperidone) for conditions covered in ODG. The use of Seroquel seems to be off label in this case and is not clinically indicated.