

Case Number:	CM15-0102751		
Date Assigned:	06/05/2015	Date of Injury:	09/17/2014
Decision Date:	07/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/14/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/29/2015

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

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 47 year old female sustained an industrial injury to the left foot and low back on 9/17/14. Previous treatment included physical therapy, orthotics/shoe insert, injections and medications. In a PR-2 dated 4/29/15, the injured worker returned with healing of the foot. Physical therapy progress notes from 4/1/15 noted that the injured worker was showing improvement in range of motion and strength. The physician noted that the injured worker had a recent increase in Norco from 90mg to 120mg. Current complaints included left foot and toe pain with phantom limb pain over the fourth toe, left ankle pain, lumbar spine pain as well as sleep deprivation, stress, anxiety and depression due to pain. Current diagnoses included left foot crush injury with phantom pain over the fourth digit, left ankle sprain/strain, lumbar spine sprain/strain, sleep deprivation, stress, anxiety and depression. The treatment plan included a pain management consultation for pain medications adjustments and possible injections, shoe insert with metatarsal pad and a possible functional restoration program so the injured worker could return to work without significant limitations.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Zofran 8mg every day, #40: 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, Antiemetics (for opioid nausea).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain chapter; Antiemetics (for opioid nausea), page 773.

Decision rationale: The Ondansetron (Zofran) is provided as medication causes recurrent nausea and vomiting. Ondansetron (Zofran) is an antiemetic, serotonin 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist FDA-approved and prescribed for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with highly emetogenic cancer chemotherapy, and in severe postoperative nausea and/or vomiting, and for acute gastroenteritis. Common side effects include headaches, dizziness, malaise, and diarrhea amongst more significant CNS extra-pyramidal reactions, and hepatic disease including liver failure. None of these indications are industrially related to this injury. The medical report from the provider has not adequately documented the medical necessity of this antiemetic medication prescribed from nausea and vomiting side effects of chronic pain medications. A review of the MTUS-ACOEM Guidelines, McKesson InterQual Guidelines are silent on its use; however, ODG Guidelines does not recommend treatment of Zofran for nausea and vomiting secondary to chronic opioid use. The Zofran 8mg every day, #40 is not medically necessary and appropriate.