

Case Number:	CM15-0142014		
Date Assigned:	07/31/2015	Date of Injury:	01/10/2014
Decision Date:	09/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/29/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/22/2015

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:

The injured worker is a 65 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 1-10-2014. She reported a left shoulder injury from a fall. Diagnoses include contusion of the left shoulder region. Treatments to date include activity modification, heat-ice, physical therapy, and medication therapy. Currently, she complained of ongoing pain in the left shoulder. On 6-15-15, the physical examination documented palpable trigger points to scapula, trapezius, and rhomboid muscles. There was pain with passive range of motion in the left shoulder. The impingement tests were positive in the left shoulder. The plan of care included a prescription for Vimovo (Naproxen-Esomeprazole Magnesium) 20-500mg #60.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Vimovo Naproxen/Esomeprazole Magnesium 20/500mg #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Pain Chapter, Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs).

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 under Vimovo.

Decision rationale: The current request is for Vimovo (Naproxen-Esomeprazole Magnesium) 20-500mg #60. The RFA is dated 06/15/15. Treatments to date include activity modification, heat-ice, physical therapy, and medication therapy. The patient is not working. MTUS and ACOEM Guidelines do not address this request. However, ODG guidelines Pain chapter under Vimovo states, not recommended as a first-line therapy. The NSAID/PPI combo is indicated to relieve signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis while decreasing the risks of NSAID-related gastric ulcers in susceptible patients. As with Nexium, a trial of omeprazole and naproxen or similar combination is recommended before Vimovo therapy. Per report 06/15/15, the patient presents with chronic left shoulder pain. The physical examination documented palpable trigger points to scapula, trapezius, and rhomboid muscles. There was pain with passive range of motion in the left shoulder. The impingement tests were positive in the left shoulder. The plan of care included a prescription for Vimovo (Naproxen-Esomeprazole Magnesium) 20-500mg #60. This appears to be the initial trial prescription for Vimovo. However, the treater does not discuss or document any GI risk factors to warrant a combination NSAID/PPI therapy. Additionally, ODG does not consider Vimovo as part of first-line therapy and require a trial of Omeprazole and Naproxen or similar combination is recommended before Vimovo therapy." Therefore, the request IS NOT medically necessary.