

Case Number:	CM15-0161111		
Date Assigned:	08/24/2015	Date of Injury:	09/27/2010
Decision Date:	09/25/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/28/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/17/2015

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: North Carolina

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 50-year-old male who sustained an industrial-work injury on 9-27-10. He reported an initial complaint of right hand pain. The injured worker was diagnosed as having amputation of finger, joint pain in hand, chronic pain syndrome, skin sensation disturbance, cervicgia, brachial neuritis, myalgia and myositis, and depression. Treatment to date includes medication, diagnostics, and acupuncture. Currently, the injured worker complained of moderate to severe shooting and throbbing right hand pain which is rated 6 out of 10. There was also associated numbness, swelling, tingling, and weakness. Per the primary physician's report (PR-2) on 6-20-15, exam noted tenderness at the paracervical muscles and trapezius, positive Tinel's sign on right elbow. The right wrist range of motion is restricted with palmar flexion at 20 degrees, dorsiflexion at 10 degrees, ulnar deviation limited by pain, radial deviation at 10 degrees with pain, tenderness to palpation over the radial side and ulnar side. An amputation to the right middle finger with painful range of motion over the proximal interphalangeal joint of the index finger, middle finger, and ring finger. Extensor hallucis longus, extensor digitorum brevis is 3 out of 5, wrist flexors and extensors are 4 out of 5, light to touch sensation is decreased over the lateral hand on the right side. The requested treatments include pharmacy purchase of Pantoprazole Sodium DR 20mg.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pharmacy purchase of Pantoprazole Sodium DR 20mg, QTY: 60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAID Page(s): 68.

Decision rationale: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on NSAID therapy and proton pump inhibitors (PPI) states: Recommend with precautions as indicated below. Clinicians should weight the indications for NSAIDs against both GI and cardiovascular risk factors. Determine if the patient is at risk for gastrointestinal events: (1) age > 65 years; (2) history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation; (3) concurrent use of ASA, corticosteroids, and/or a 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 gastro duodenal lesions. Recommendations Patients with no risk factor and no cardiovascular disease: Non-selective NSAIDs OK (e. g, ibuprofen, naproxen, etc.) Patients at intermediate risk for gastrointestinal events and no cardiovascular disease: (1) A non-selective NSAID with either a PPI (Proton Pump Inhibitor, for example, 20 mg omeprazole daily) or misoprostol (200g four times daily) or (2) a Cox-2 selective agent. Long-term PPI use (> 1 year) has been shown to increase the risk of hip fracture (adjusted odds ratio 1. 44). Patients at high risk for gastrointestinal events with no cardiovascular disease: A Cox-2 selective agent plus a PPI if absolutely necessary. There is no documentation provided that places this patient at intermediate or high risk that would justify the use of a PPI. There is no mention of current gastrointestinal or cardiovascular disease. For these reasons, the criteria set forth above per the California MTUS for the use of this medication has not been met. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.