

Case Number:	CM15-0165549		
Date Assigned:	09/03/2015	Date of Injury:	03/06/2013
Decision Date:	10/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/24/2015

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 52 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 3-06-2013. Diagnoses include bilateral hip strain rule out internal derangement left worse than right, lumbar radiculopathy left greater than right, cervical strain with left sided radiculopathy and radiculitis, bilateral wrist tendinitis with bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome, bilateral elbow tendinitis with medial and lateral cubital tunnel syndrome, bilateral shoulder impingement and strain left worse than right, left knee pain rule out internal derangement and left thigh pain. Treatment to date has included diagnostics, activity modification, work restrictions and oral and topical medications. Electrodiagnostic testing dated 3-27-2014 showed slight bilateral carpal tunnel and slight to moderate bilateral cubital tunnel syndrome with no cervical radiculopathy. Per the Primary Treating Physician's Progress Report dated 7-02-2015, the injured worker reported persistent symptoms despite conservative care. He currently reports left knee pain which is not getting any better. He has increased numbness and tingling of the left upper extremity. He also reported bilateral hip pain, bilateral shoulder pain, bilateral wrist pain, bilateral elbow and forearm pain, low back pain, neck pain and upper back pain. Physical examination of the cervical spine revealed muscle spasm and tenderness upon palpation of the paravertebral muscles, on the left more than right. Spurling's sign was positive on the left causing upper scapular pain. Ranges of motion were restricted. Work status was temporarily totally disabled. He was unable to do modified work. The plan of care included medications, consultations and diagnostics. Authorization was requested for Omeprazole 20mg #60.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Omeprazole 20mg #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.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI Symptoms and Cardiovascular risk, Pages 68-69.

Decision rationale: Proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medication is for treatment of the problems associated with active gastric ulcers, erosive esophagitis, Barrett's esophagitis, or in patients with pathologic hypersecretion diseases. Although preventive treatment is effective for the mentioned diagnosis, studies suggest; however, nearly half of PPI prescriptions are used for unapproved or no indications. Per MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines, the patient does not meet criteria for PPI namely reserved for patients with history of prior GI bleeding, the elderly (over 65 years), diabetics, and chronic cigarette smokers. Long term use of PPIs have potential increased risks of B12 deficiency; iron deficiency; hypomagnesemia; susceptibility to pneumonia, enteric infections, fractures, hypergastrinemia and cancer, and cardiovascular effects of myocardial infarction (MI). In the elderly, studies have demonstrated increased risk for Clostridium difficile infection, bone loss, and fractures from long-term use of PPIs. Submitted reports have not described or provided any GI diagnosis that meets the criteria to indicate medical treatment. Review of the records show no documentation of any identified history of acute GI bleeding, active ulcers, or confirmed specific GI diagnosis criteria to warrant this medication. The Omeprazole 20mg #60 is not medically necessary and appropriate.