

Case Number:	CM15-0191237		
Date Assigned:	10/05/2015	Date of Injury:	02/06/2011
Decision Date:	11/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/03/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/29/2015

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:

The injured worker is a 31 year old male who sustained an industrial injury 02-06-11. A review of the medical records reveals the injured worker is undergoing treatment for status post lumbar fusion, cervical myoligamentous sprain and strain, depression and anxiety, gastrointestinal complaints, and headaches, possible cervicogenic. Medical records (05-26-15) reveal the injured worker complains of constant pain in the neck and low back pain. The physical exam (05-26-15) reveals tenderness in the cervical and lumbar paraspinal musculature, and palpation in the upper cervical region reproduced headaches. Range of motion of eh cervical spine was severely restricted and significantly reduced in the lumbar spine. Straight leg raises reproduced back pain as well as radicular component of pain. Prior treatment includes medications and lumbar fusion. The treating provider reports no radiological or diagnostic results. The original utilization review (09-03-15) non-certified the request for Celebrex 200mg #30.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Celebrex 200mg #30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs).

Decision rationale: Anti-inflammatories are the traditional first line of treatment, to reduce pain so activity and functional restoration can resume, but long-term use may not be warranted. Monitoring of NSAID's functional benefit is advised as per Guidelines, long-term use of NSAIDS beyond a few weeks may actually retard muscle and connective tissue healing and increase the risk for heart attack and stroke in patients with or without heart disease, as well as potential for hip fractures even within the first weeks of treatment, increasing with longer use and higher doses of the NSAID. Available reports submitted have not adequately addressed the indication to continue a NSAID for a chronic 2011 injury nor have they demonstrated any functional efficacy in terms of improved work status, specific increased in ADLs, decreased in pharmacological dosing, and decreased in medical utilization derived from treatment already rendered. The Celebrex 200mg #30 is not medically necessary.