

Case Number:	CM15-0206359		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2015	Date of Injury:	11/26/2014
Decision Date:	12/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/13/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/21/2015

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 62 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 11-26-2014. A review of medical records indicates the injured worker is being treated for left foot crushing injury, left toes crushing injury, status post amputation left third toe secondary to #1, and left foot multiple phalangeal fracture. Medical records dated 8-9-2015 noted significant pain diffusely throughout the area of the crush zone left foot. This was unchanged from the prior visit. Physical examination noted he ambulates with an assistive cane. There was minimal range of motion to the remaining toes. There was some pain with palpation throughout the mid foot and distal aspect of the left foot particularly along the lateral column and in the area that was crushed. Treatment has included work restrictions. Utilization review form dated 10-13-2015 noncertified Zorvolex.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Zorvolex 35mg, #30 with 2 refills: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Ankle and Foot Complaints 2004.

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

Decision rationale: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on NSAID therapy states: Recommended at the lowest dose for the shortest period in patients with moderate to severe pain. Acetaminophen may be considered for initial therapy for patients with mild to moderate pain, and in particular, for those with gastrointestinal, cardiovascular or renovascular risk factors. NSAIDs appear to be superior to acetaminophen, particularly for patients with moderate to severe pain. There is no evidence to recommend one drug in this class over another based on efficacy. In particular, there appears to be no difference between traditional NSAIDs and COX-2 NSAIDs in terms of pain relief. The main concern of selection is based on adverse effects. COX-2 NSAIDs have fewer GI side effects at the risk of increased cardiovascular side effects, although the FDA has concluded that long-term clinical trials are best interpreted to suggest that cardiovascular risk occurs with all NSAIDs and is a class effect (with naproxyn being the safest drug). There is no evidence of long-term effectiveness for pain or function. (Chen, 2008) This medication is recommended for the shortest period of time and at the lowest dose possible. The dosing of this medication is within the California MTUS guideline recommendations. The definition of shortest period possible is not clearly defined in the California MTUS. Therefore, the request is medically necessary.