

Case Number:	CM15-0215490		
Date Assigned:	11/05/2015	Date of Injury:	12/22/2008
Decision Date:	12/18/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/05/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/03/2015

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: New Jersey

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 41 year old, male who sustained a work related injury on 12-22-08. A review of the medical records shows he is being treated for low back pain. In the SOAP Notes dated 8-28-15 and 9-23-15, the injured worker reports low back pain that radiates to both legs. He rates his pain level a 7 out of 10. "His pain is mainly unchanged." His oral medications continue to "alleviate his pain and allow his activities of daily living." On physical exam dated 9-23-15, he has no complaints or verbalized issues with erectile dysfunction. In the plan section of note, the provider states the Viagra is for "pain-induced erectile dysfunction." Treatments have included medications and lumbar epidural steroid injections. Current medications include Norco, Butrans patches, Oxycontin, and Viagra. The treatment plan includes requests for medications and a referral to another physician. The Request for Authorization dated 9-23-15 has requests for Xanax, Norco and Viagra. In the Utilization Review dated 10-5-15, the requested treatment of Viagra 50mg. #30 with 4 refills is not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Viagra 50mg #30 with 4 refills: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Patricia A. Cioe, Peter D. Friedmann, and

Michael D. Stein. Erectile Dysfunction in Opioid Users: Lack of Association with Serum Testosterone. J Addict Dis. 2010 October; 29(4): 455-460.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medscape.com: sildenafil (<http://reference.medscape.com/drug/revatio-viagra-sildenafil-342834>).

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines do not address Viagra or any other phosphodiesterase-5 Enzyme inhibitors. Viagra is indicated for pulmonary hypertension and erectile dysfunction. In settings of erectile dysfunction, Viagra is primarily indicated for physiologic dysfunction related to older age/cardiovascular disease. In the case of this worker, the provider claims that the worker's erectile dysfunction is related to his chronic pain. However, using Viagra to compensate for this is a less direct way to address the cause of the dysfunction. Better treating the pain would be a more direct way of improving pain-related erectile dysfunction. Upon review of the documentation leading up to this request, there are more conservative and other methods not yet used to help reduce pain such as other medications not tried before, which should be attempted fully before justification for Viagra can be made. Also, there was no clear documentation of evidence of the diagnosis nor of the cause being pain-related as opposed to vascular or otherwise. Therefore, this request for Viagra is not medically necessary at this time.