

Case Number:	CM15-0217715		
Date Assigned:	11/09/2015	Date of Injury:	08/05/2014
Decision Date:	12/28/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/29/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/05/2015

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 30 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 8-5-14. The injured worker was being treated for status post right acromioplasty and Mumford. On 10-15-15, the injured worker reports right shoulder is improving with home exercises and Vimovo and continues to experience pain in anterior lateral deltoid as well as the trapezius. Documentation does not include level of pain prior to or following administration of medication or duration of pain relief. He is currently on modified duty. Physical exam performed on 10-15-15 revealed tenderness at acromioclavicular joint with positive impingement sign and restricted range of motion of right shoulder. Treatment to date has included right shoulder acromioplasty, physical therapy, oral medications including Motrin, Norco and Vimovo 500-20mg (for an unclear length of time). On 10-23-15 request for authorization was submitted on Vimovo 500-20mg #60 with 3 refills. On 10-29-15 request for Vimovo 500-20mg was non-certified by utilization review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Vimovo 500/200 mg #60 with 3 refills (DOS: 10/23/2015): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter: Vimovo.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain chapter under Vimovo.

Decision rationale: The 30 year old patient complains of pain in anterior lateral deltoid as well as the trapezius, and is five months status post right acromioplasty and Mumford procedure, as per progress report dated 10/15/15. The request is for VIMOVO 500/200 mg #60 WITH 3 REFILLS (DOS: 10/23/2015). The RFA for this case is dated 10/23/15, and the patient's date of injury is 08/05/14. The patient has been given samples of Pennsaid and Vimovo, as per progress report dated 10/15/15. The patient is on modified duty, as per the same progress report. MTUS and ACOEM Guidelines do not address this request. ODG guidelines, Pain chapter under Vimovo states: "not recommended as a first-line therapy." The NSAID/PPI combo is indicated to relieve signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and ankylosing spondylitis while decreasing the risks of NSAID-related gastric ulcers in susceptible patients. As with Nexium, a trial of omeprazole and naproxen or similar combination is recommended before Vimovo therapy. In this case, the patient was switched from Motrin to Vimovo during the 09/14/15 visit as the Motrin was causing upset stomach. As per progress report dated 10/15/15, the patient is improving with Vimovo. The treater states that the "samples worked well and did not upset his stomach like Motrin." The patient continues to experience pain due to the denial of this medication. The treater, however, does not explain why the patient did not trial a combination of Omeprazole and NSAID before Vimovo. ODG guidelines do not consider Vimovo as "a first-line therapy" and there is no indication of failure of Omeprazole and Naproxen or a similar combination. Hence, the request IS NOT medically necessary.