

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0042526		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/12/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/29/2008
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/01/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/11/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/06/2015

### 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: Texas, California  
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 56-year-old male, with a reported date of injury of 04/29/2008. The diagnoses include abdominal pain, acid reflux, and status post H. pylori treatment. Treatments to date have included oral medications, and Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) analysis. Currently, the injured worker noted improved acid reflux with Prilosec, and improved abdominal pain. He complained of mild bloating/gas. The progress report dated 01/08/2015 indicates that the objective findings include a soft abdomen, and normative bowel sounds. The treating physician requested Probiotics #60. The medication list includes Probiotics, Sentra AM/PM and Prilosec. The patient's surgical history includes lumbar spine fusion. The lab report on 2/24/14 and on 2/10/15 that was positive for H pylori.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Probiotics #60:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation website, [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation PubMed: Probiotics.

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS and ODG do not address this issue. The therapeutic uses of the Probiotics include: Allergic rhinitis, Antibiotic-associated diarrhea; Prophylaxis, Atopic dermatitis; Prophylaxis Bacterial vaginosis, Candidal vulvovaginitis, Constipation, Creation of ileal pouch - Ileitis, Crohn's disease, Diarrhea, chronic Diarrhea - Radiation-induced disorder Helicobacter pylori gastrointestinal tract infection; Adjunct Hepatic encephalopathy, Infectious diarrheal disease, Infectious diarrheal disease; Prophylaxis, Irritable bowel syndrome, Lactose intolerance, Pancreatitis, acute Pseudo-obstruction of intestine, Recurrent urinary tract infection; Prophylaxis Respiratory symptom, Cold and Influenza-like; Prophylaxis, Respiratory tract infection; Prophylaxis, Short bowel syndrome, Ulcer of mouth, Ventilator-associated pneumonia; Prophylaxis. As per cited guidelines the Probiotics are useful in antibiotic associated diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, especially ulcerative colitis, Probiotics offer a safe alternative to current therapy and helpful in the prevention and treatment of acute diarrhea in adults and children and have some effects on the course of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). Any evidence of acute diarrhea and inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) ulcerative colitis was not specified in the records provided. The records provided did not specify any current use of antibiotics. Therefore, the request is not medical necessary of Probiotics #60 is not fully established for this patient at this time.