

Case Number:	CM15-0052494		
Date Assigned:	04/16/2015	Date of Injury:	06/28/2008
Decision Date:	05/11/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/12/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/19/2015

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, Florida, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine

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 52-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 06/28/2008. The initial complaints and diagnoses were not mentioned in the clinical notes. Treatment to date has included conservative care, medications, conservative therapies, x-rays, MIRs, and behavioral medicine therapy. Currently, the injured worker complains of chronic left knee pain due to degenerative osteoarthritis/CRPS (chronic regional pain syndrome) type I, and poor sleep. There were also positive findings for suicidal ideations and depression. The diagnoses include chronic left knee pain neuropathic pain, left leg pain myofascial pain syndrome, pain disorder with psychological/general medicine conditions, and insomnia. The treatment plan consisted of continued medications (new prescription for Quetiapine), sleep consult, cortisone injections, x-rays, and follow-up.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Quetiapine tab 25mg Day supply;15 quantity 30.00; refills 2: 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).

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 Antidepressants.

Decision rationale: The current California web-based MTUS collection was reviewed in addressing this request. The guidelines are silent in regards to this request. Therefore, in accordance with state regulation, other evidence-based or mainstream peer-reviewed guidelines will be examined. Regarding antidepressants like Seroquel, also known as Quetiapine, to treat a major depressive disorder, the ODG notes: Recommended for initial treatment of presentations of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) that is moderate, severe, or psychotic, unless electroconvulsive therapy is part of the treatment plan. Not recommended for mild symptoms. In this case, it is not clear what objective benefit has been achieved out of the antidepressant usage, how the activities of daily living have improved, and what other benefits have been. It is not clear if this claimant has a major depressive disorder as defined in DSM-IV. If used for pain, it is not clear what objective, functional benefit has been achieved. The notes specify it is being prescribed for sleep. The medicine though is for schizophrenia, bipolar/manic disorder, and acute depressive bipolar. I did not find a mainstream usage for insomnia. The risk of off-label usage is that the studies are not there to be assured the treatment would be effective, and there are unknown risks to the patient. The request is not medically necessary.