

Case Number:	CM14-0125828		
Date Assigned:	08/13/2014	Date of Injury:	04/14/2009
Decision Date:	09/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/08/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Family Practice and is licensed to practice in Texas and Mississippi. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 53 year old male who reported an injury on 04/14/2009; the mechanism of injury was not provided. The diagnoses include post traumatic headaches, cervical spondylosis with radiculopathy, bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome, and adjustment disorder with depression and anxiety. The past treatments included Botox injections, epidural block, and medication. The diagnostic studies included an electromyography of bilateral upper extremities on 11/10/2010 which indicated mild right carpal tunnel syndrome and significant bilateral cubital tunnel syndrome, worse on the left. The injured worker had a magnetic resonance imaging of the right shoulder on 04/30/2014 which indicated osteoarthritis and a mild interstitial tear of the biceps tendon. Surgical history included a left carpal tunnel release in 11/2013, and multiple spinal surgeries, not specified. The clinical note dated 05/21/2014 indicated the injured worker complained of pain rated 9/10 to his back, shoulders, neck, head, and knees, and stated that since the date of his injury, the level of pain had remained constant. He also reported feelings of sadness, hopelessness, insecurity, and apprehension. The objective findings included a Beck Depression Inventory score of 39 and a Beck Anxiety Inventory score of 36. Current medications included Oxycodone, Tizanidine, Trazodone, Gabapentin, Duexis, and Cymbalta. The treatment plan included Duexis #60 for right shoulder pain. The request for authorization form was not provided.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Duexis #60: 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) NSAIDs. Treatment Index, 11th Edition (web), 2014, Pain, Duexis (Ibuprofen & Famotidime).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk Page(s): 68-69.

Decision rationale: Duexis is a medication that combines an NSAID with an H2 blocker that helps protect against ulcers in the stomach and intestines. The California MTUS guidelines indicate that a patient is at risk for gastrointestinal events if they are 65 years of age or older; have a history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation; there is concurrent use of aspirin, corticosteroids and/or an anticoagulant; or are on high dose/multiple NSAIDs. Non-selective NSAIDs are recommended for patients with no risk factor and no cardiovascular disease. There is a lack of documentation to indicate that the injured worker had complaints of GI discomfort or was at risk for gastrointestinal event. Additionally, the request does not indicate the frequency of the medication. Therefore, the request for Duexis #60 is not medically necessary.