

Case Number:	CM14-0134273		
Date Assigned:	08/29/2014	Date of Injury:	07/12/2010
Decision Date:	09/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/19/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 39 year-old female with a 7/12/10 date of injury, and T11 and T12 bilateral laminotomies on 1/8/14. At the time (7/22/14) of request for authorization for Zofran 4mg # 60 with 1 refill, there is documentation of subjective (complex regional pain syndrome affecting the patient's bilateral upper and lower extremities) and objective (mild mottling of upper extremity), a current diagnosis (Complex regional pain syndrome affecting bilateral upper and lower extremities), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Zofran)). There is no documentation of nausea and vomiting secondary to chemotherapy and radiation treatment, postoperative use, or use for gastroenteritis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Zofran 4mg # 60 with 1 refill: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - Antiemetics (for opioid nausea).

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, Antiemetics (for opioid nausea).

Decision rationale: California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) does not address the issue. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) identifies documentation of nausea and vomiting secondary to chemotherapy and radiation treatment, postoperative use, or acute use for gastroenteritis, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Ondansetron (Zofran). MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of Complex regional pain syndrome affecting bilateral upper and lower extremities. In addition, there is documentation of ongoing treatment with Zofran. However, there is no documentation of nausea and vomiting secondary to chemotherapy and radiation treatment, postoperative use, or use for gastroenteritis. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Zofran 4mg # 60 with 1 refill is not medically necessary.