

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0138649		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/05/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/27/2002
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/09/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/01/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/27/2014

### 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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 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:

The injured worker is a 58-year-old male who reported an injury on 04/27/2002 due to an unknown mechanism. Diagnoses were spinal stenosis, lumbar region, without neurogenic claudication, cervical spinal stenosis, sciatica. Past treatments were medications and physical therapy. Diagnostic studies were not reported. Surgical history was not reported. Physical examination on 07/15/2014 revealed that the injured worker is working full time without restriction. It was reported that the provider spent 15 minutes with the injured worker, of which more than 50% was spent on counseling/coordination of care around importance of compliance with the treatment regimen, review of CURES/PARS/UDS results, goal setting and monitoring, and additional education and chronic pain self-management. Vital signs were reported. Medications were tramadol/acetaminophen and Viagra. Treatment plan was not reported. The rationale was not submitted. The Request for Authorization was not submitted.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Viagra 100 mg IT x3 refills:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National Library of Medicine

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/erectile-dysfunction/in-depth/erectile-> Other Guidelines

**Decision rationale:** The decision for Viagra 100 mg IT x3 refills is not medically necessary. The California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, ACOEM, and Official Disability Guidelines do not address this. A search of the National Library of Medicine revealed that erectile dysfunction is a common type of male sexual dysfunction. It is when a man trouble getting or keeping an erection. ED becomes more common as you get older, but it is not a natural part of aging. Some people have trouble speaking with their doctors about sex. But if you have ED, you should tell your doctor. ED can be a sign of health problems. It may mean your blood vessels are clogged. It may mean you have nerve damage from diabetes. Getting more exercise, losing weight, or stopping smoking may also help. Viagra, Levitra, or Cialis, is often the first oral medication tried for erectile dysfunction. For most men who have trouble keeping an erection firm enough for sex (erectile dysfunction), these medications work well and cause few side effects. Sildenafil (Viagra), Levitra, or Cialis, are all medications that reverse erectile dysfunction by increasing nitric oxide, a chemical naturally produced by your body. Nitric oxide opens and relaxes blood vessels in the penis, helping your get and keep an erection. These erectile dysfunction medications don't increase your sex drive and only cause erections when you are sexually stimulated. The documents submitted for review did not have a physical examination for the injured worker in them. There were no significant factors reported to justify the use outside of the current guidelines. There was no diagnosis to support the use of this medication. The request does not indicate a frequency for the medication. Therefore, the decision is not medically necessary.