

Case Number:	CM14-0168742		
Date Assigned:	10/16/2014	Date of Injury:	09/09/2009
Decision Date:	11/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/13/2014

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 Medicine and is licensed to practice in Arizona. 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:

Patient is a 55 year old female with a date of injury on 9/9/2009. Subjective complaints are of increased neck pain with headaches and radicular symptoms in both extremities. Physical exam shows tenderness in the posterior cervical musculature and trapezius muscle. There is decreased right shoulder range of motion, and decreased sensation in the C5-6 distribution. The lumbar spine has tenderness and numerous trigger points, and decreased range of motion. Medications include Anaprox, Prilosec, and Neurontin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prilosec 20mg qty: 60.00: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) online: regarding Prilosec (omeprazole); NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDS/GI risk Page(s): 68-69. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG: Pain, PPIs

Decision rationale: According to CA MTUS guidelines, a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) can be added to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) therapy if the patient is at an intermediate to high risk for adverse gastrointestinal (GI) events. Guidelines identify the

following as risk factors for GI events: age >65, history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation, use of acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), corticosteroids, anticoagulant use, or high dose NSAIDs. The ODG suggests that PPIs are highly effective for their approved indications, including preventing gastric ulcers induced by NSAIDs. This patient is on chronic NSAID therapy, and is using omeprazole for GI prophylaxis. Therefore, the use of omeprazole is consistent with guideline recommendations and is medically necessary.