

Case Number:	CM14-0172565		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	12/29/2005
Decision Date:	11/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/20/2014

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 American Board Family Practice 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:

34 yr. old male claimant sustained a work injury on 12/29/05 involving the low back. He was diagnosed with lumbar disc disease and underwent a spinal fusion of L5-S1 on 9/1/09. He had been on oral analgesics (opioids) for and on Prilosec since at least August 2013. A progress note on 12/10/13 indicated the claimant had low back pain. He remained on Duragesic and Norco for pain. Exam findings were notable for paralumbar tenderness. He was continued on Prilosec. There was no mention of GI bleeding or complaints.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

120 CAPSULES OF PRILOSEC 20 MG: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs Page(s): 68-69.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS guidelines, Prilosec is a proton pump inhibitor that is to be used with NSAIDs for those with high risk of GI events such as bleeding, perforation, and concurrent anticoagulation/anti-platelet use. In this case, there is no documentation of GI

events or antiplatelet use that would place the claimant at risk. Therefore, the continued use of Prilosec is not medically necessary.