

Case Number:	CM14-0097212		
Date Assigned:	07/28/2014	Date of Injury:	07/28/2009
Decision Date:	10/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/25/2014

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 & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 patient is a 48-year-old male with a date of injury of 07/28/2009. The listed diagnoses per [REDACTED] are: 1. Lumbar disk degenerative disease. 2. Lumbar radiculopathy. 3. Myalgia and myositis. 4. Sleep disorder, chronic. 5. Tobacco use disorder. According to progress report 04/29/2014, the patient presents with low back pain radiating up the paraspinal muscles into the occipital region. The patient's pain is rated as 9/10 with medications and 10/10 without medications. Examination revealed antalgic gait, pain and difficulty with transfers from sitting to standing position, and decreased lumbar flexion. The treater is requesting a refill of Klonopin 0.5 mg #60 for associated anxiety and panic disorder, and Cialis 20 mg for associated erectile dysfunction. Utilization Review denied the request on 05/29/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Klonopin 0.5 mg Quantity requested: 60.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Benzodiazepines Page(s): 24, 66.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Benzodiazepines Page(s): 24.

Decision rationale: This patient presents with increasing low back pain that radiates up to the paraspinous muscles into the occipital region. The treater is requesting a refill of Klonopin 0.5 mg #60. The MTUS Guidelines page 24 states, "Benzodiazepines are not recommended for long-term use because long-term efficacies are unproven and there is a risk of dependence. Most guidelines limit to 4 weeks." This medication has been prescribed for long term use, which is not supported by MTUS. Recommendation is for denial.

Cialis 20 mg Quantity requested: 15.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation EBM

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Clinical Policy Bulletin: Erectile Dysfunction Number: 0007 Policy

Decision rationale: This patient presents with increasing low back pain that radiates up to the paraspinous muscles into the occipital region. Treater states the patient has associated erectile dysfunction. He is requesting Cialis 20 mg #15. The MTUS, ACOEM, and ODG Guidelines do not discuss Viagra specifically. Aetna Guidelines, however, required comprehensive physical/examination and lab workup for diagnosis of erectile dysfunction including medical, sexual, and psychosocial evaluation. While Cialis is appropriate for ED, ED must be appropriately diagnosed. In this case, there is no comprehensive evaluation or lab work provided. Recommendation is for denial.