

Case Number:	CM14-0211126		
Date Assigned:	12/23/2014	Date of Injury:	04/20/2009
Decision Date:	02/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/16/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:
State(s) of Licensure: California, Arizona, Maryland
Certification(s)/Specialty: Psychiatry

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

Injured worker is a 60 year old male with date of injury 04/20/2009. Date of the UR decision was 12/10/2014. He suffered a head injury at work from a fall in which he developed physical injuries to left elbow, left wrist and developed psychological injury due to the same. Per psychiatric progress report dated 11/25/2014, the injured worker was being followed for anxiety and depression associated to a work related injury and was being prescribed Latuda 40 mg, Fetzima 40 mg, and Ambien 10 mg on a daily basis. It has been suggested in the documentation that the psychotropic medications are being prescribed for depression and anxiety. The documentation suggests that the injured worker is totally disabled from seeking gainful employment.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Latuda Tab 40mg Qty 30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness & Stress Chapter-A typical Antipsychotics

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Stress & Mental; Atypical Antipsychotics; FDA.gov- Latuda.

Decision rationale: Per FDA.gov- Latuda (lurasidone) is an atypical antipsychotic agent for the treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar depression. ODG states "Atypical antipsychotics are not recommended as a first-line treatment. There is insufficient evidence to recommend atypical antipsychotics (eg, quetiapine, risperidone) for conditions covered in ODG. Antipsychotic drugs are commonly prescribed off-label for a number of disorders outside of their FDA-approved indications, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. In a new study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, four of the antipsychotics most commonly prescribed off label for use in patients over 40 were found to lack both safety and effectiveness. The four atypical antipsychotics were aripiprazole (Abilify), olanzapine (Zyprexa), quetiapine (Seroquel), and risperidone (Risperdal). The authors concluded that off-label use of these drugs in people over 40 should be short-term, and undertaken with caution. Per psychiatric progress report dated 11/25/2014, the injured worker was being followed for anxiety and depression associated to a work related injury and was being prescribed Latuda 40 mg, Fetzima 40 mg, and Ambien 10 mg on a daily basis. It has been suggested in the documentation that the psychotropic medications are being prescribed for depression and anxiety. There is no documentation of the injured worker suffering from a psychotic or a bipolar type illness for which Fetzima is FDA indicated for. Thus, the request for Latuda Tab 40mg Qty 30 is excessive and not medically necessary.