

Case Number:	CM15-0121844		
Date Assigned:	07/06/2015	Date of Injury:	05/01/2009
Decision Date:	08/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/04/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/24/2015

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: Pennsylvania

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 63 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 5/1/09. The injured worker was diagnosed as having gastroesophageal reflux disease. Treatment to date has included proton pump inhibitors. An esophagogastroduodenoscopy performed on 4/2/15 revealed minor esophagitis and grade 1 gastritis. Currently, the injured worker complains of gastroesophageal reflux, regurgitation, and intermittent dysphagia. The treating physician requested authorization for a 24-hour PH study.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

24 hour PH study: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation National guidelines clearinghouse, Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Up To Date/Management algorithm of GERD patient who failed PPI once daily.

Decision rationale: According to the 5/13/15 physician progress note, this worker complains of dysphagia x 2 weeks with liquids and solids. An EGD was inconclusive. Lansoprazole was prescribed and manometry and 24-hour pH ordered. According to the 1/13/15 physician letter, he has been on a PPI, 2 per day, which were not helping his GERD symptoms. A 12/4/14 physician progress note indicates he was taking omeprazole 20 mg, 1-2 capsules daily. According to Up To Date, esophageal impedance plus pH is indicated after a patient has not responded to a second PPI followed by a PPI twice daily for 2 months if failure to once daily dosing with the second PPI. In this case it does not appear that this patient has had a trial of a PPI other than omeprazole 40 mg daily. It appears he was first prescribed a second PPI, lansoprazole on 5/13/15 at the same time manometry and pH were ordered without knowing what the response to the second PPI would be. In summary, a pH study is not medically necessary at this time since the worker has not completed a trial of a second PPI including twice daily dosing if symptoms not resolved with daily dosing.