

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0024436		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/13/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/14/2002
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/01/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/16/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/09/2015

### 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: 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:

The injured worker is a 52 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 10/14/02. The diagnoses included post-traumatic stress disorder, and major depression. Treatments to date include electroconvulsive therapy and oral antidepressant medications. In a progress note dated 12/5/14 the treating provider reports the injured worker was "in the partial hospitalization treatment program" and recommended a neuropsychological assessment. On 1/16/15 Utilization Review non-certified the request for Seroquel 300 milligrams for one year, The MTUS, ACOEM Guidelines, (or ODG) was cited.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Seroquel 300mg for one year:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Mental Illness & Stress (updated 11/21/14) Atypical antipsychotics.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness & Stress Atypical Antipsychotics, Quetiapine (Seroquel).

**Decision rationale:** ODG states Quetiapine is 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. The request for Seroquel 300 mg for one year is excessive and not medically necessary. There is insufficient evidence to recommend atypical antipsychotics (eg, quetiapine, risperidone) for conditions covered in ODG. It is not recommended for a medication to be continued for one year without any monitoring or follow up. Thus continuation of Seroquel 300 mg for one year is not clinically indicated at this time.