

Case Number:	CM15-0062981		
Date Assigned:	04/08/2015	Date of Injury:	03/02/2010
Decision Date:	05/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/27/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/02/2015

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: Iowa, Illinois, Hawaii

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Public Health & General Preventive Medicine

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 49-year-old male, with a reported date of injury of 03/02/2010. The diagnoses include status post failed spine surgery, anxiety, and depression. Treatments to date have included oral medication. The medical report from which the request originates was not included in the medical records provided for review. The orthopedic examination dated 01/06/2015 indicates that he injured worker complained of low back pain. The objective findings include tenderness with loss of spinal rhythm with spasm, and forward flexion at 90 degrees. The treating physician requested Abilify 6mg tablets.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Abilify tab 5mg: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Antidepressants for Chronic pain; SSRI's Page(s): 13-14, 16. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Mental Illness and Stress Chapter; Abilify and

Other Medical Treatment Guidelines <http://www.uptodate.com>; Abilify Gen Hosp Psychiatry. 2013 Jan-Feb; 35(1):103.e7-9. doi: 10.1016/j.gen hosp psych.2012.05.002. Epub 2012 Jun 14. Aripiprazole improves various cognitive and behavioral impairments after traumatic brain injury: a case report.

Decision rationale: Uptodate list the uses of Abilify as below. Bipolar I disorder: Acute treatment of manic and mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder. Irritability associated with autistic disorder: Treatment of irritability associated with autistic disorder. Major depressive disorder: Adjunctive treatment of major depressive disorder. Schizophrenia: Treatment of schizophrenia. Tourette disorder: Treatment of Tourette disorder. Injection: Agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania (immediate-release injection only): Treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia or bipolar mania. Schizophrenia (extended-release injection only): Treatment of schizophrenia. Use: Off-Label Depression with psychotic features; Psychosis/agitation related to Alzheimer disease and other dementias. ODG states "Not recommended as a first-line treatment. Abilify (aripiprazole) is an antipsychotic medication. Antipsychotics are the first-line psychiatric treatment for schizophrenia. There is insufficient evidence to recommend atypical antipsychotics for conditions covered in ODG." A recent case report states (Gen Hosp Psychiatry. 2013 Jan-Feb; 35(1):103.e7-9.): "Aripiprazole improves various cognitive and behavioral impairments after traumatic brain injury: a case report." Based on Uptodate and the recent case report, the utilization of Abilify for agitation secondary to other dementias, such as Traumatic brain injury, is supported by recent medical based evidence. In addition, the patient has failed escalating doses of benzodiazepines over time, which guidelines recommend against. As such, the request for Abilify tab 5 mg is medically necessary.