

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0069994		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/17/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/01/2002
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/18/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/26/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/13/2015

### 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: New Jersey, Alabama, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 52-year-old male injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 08/01/2002. The diagnoses included right upper extremity chronic pain syndrome, right shoulder sprain/strain, and right elbow epicondylitis. The injured worker had been treated with right ulnar decompression at the elbow and wrist, medications and physical therapy. On 3/9/2015, the treating provider reported increased numbness affecting the right hand that is affecting the fourth and fifth digits. The provider indicated the omeprazole was for side effects caused by Ibuprofen. The treatment plan included Omeprazole.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Omeprazole 20 mg, sixty count:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 78.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs, GI symptoms & cardiovascular risk Page(s): 68.

**Decision rationale:** According to MTUS guidelines, Omeprazole is indicated when NSAID are used in patients with intermediate or high risk for gastrointestinal events. The risk for gastrointestinal events are: (1) age > 65 years; (2) history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding or perforation; (3) concurrent use of ASA, corticosteroids, and/or an anticoagulant; or (4) high dose/multiple NSAID (e.g., NSAID + low-dose ASA). Recent studies tend to show that H. Pylori does not act synergistically with NSAIDS to develop gastroduodenal lesions. There is no documentation that the patient's GI issue requires the use of Omeprazole. The patient has been taking aspirin, which combined with ibuprofen, increases GI risk factors. In these conditions, a medication in the PPI class is more appropriate and such medications are readily available over the counter. There is no documentation in the patient's chart supporting that he is at intermediate or high risk for developing gastrointestinal events. Therefore, the request for Omeprazole 20mg # 60 is not medically necessary.