

Case Number:	CM15-0093336		
Date Assigned:	05/19/2015	Date of Injury:	10/14/1994
Decision Date:	06/23/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/29/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/14/2015

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: Florida

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:

This 72 year old man sustained an industrial injury on 10/14/1994. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Diagnoses include rheumatoid arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and pulmonary fibrosis. Treatment has included oral and inhaled medications and use of a wheelchair. Physician notes from the rheumatologist dated 4/16/2015 show a visit for routine follow up. Recommendations include postpone Rituximab, start Augmentin, repeat chest x-ray, request Provia for June, and home care assistance.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prolia PFS 60mg SC injection Qty: 1: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Clinical Policy Bulletin: Denosumab (Prolia and Xgeva); Aetna, Denosumab (Prolia).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Drugs.com <http://www.drugs.com/prolia.html>.

Decision rationale: MTUS, ACOEM, and ODG guidelines are silent on the prescription of Prolia. Therefore, other guidelines were referenced. Prolia is Denosumab, a medication used to treat Osteoporosis. Prolia is also used to increase bone mass in those with a high risk of bone fracture caused by receiving treatments for certain types of cancer. Regarding this patient's case, he does have a history of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Nonhodgkin's Lymphoma, and Osteoporosis. Utilization review stated that there is insufficient evidence that this patient has Osteoporosis, however this is incorrect based off the medical documentation provided for this review. A Rheumatology consultant note from 10/2014 [REDACTED] specifically states that this patient does have Osteoporosis on a recent DEXA scan, and is "very osteoporotic in his hips." Likewise, the prescription of Prolia in such a case is considered medically necessary and appropriate.