

Case Number:	CM15-0098283		
Date Assigned:	05/29/2015	Date of Injury:	11/28/2012
Decision Date:	07/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/07/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/21/2015

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: Texas, California

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 is a 54 year old female patient, who sustained an industrial injury on 11/28/2012. The diagnoses include cervical, extremity, hand, shoulder and wrist pain. Per the progress note dated 04/30/2015, she had complaints of neck and bilateral upper extremity pain that was unchanged since the last visit. The pain was rated as 8/10 with medication and 9/10 without medication. The physical examination revealed decreased range of motion of the cervical spine with pain, tenderness of the paravertebral muscles of the cervical spine and restricted range of motion of the left shoulder with positive Neer's and Hawkin's tests. The medications list includes lidoderm, celebrex, ultram, neurontin, naproxen, trazodone and tylenol with codeine. She is now not taking naproxen and did not tolerate ultram. Treatment to date has included oral pain medication, physical therapy and acupuncture. A request for authorization of Celebrex refill was submitted.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Celebrex 200mg #30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Anti-inflammatory medications, Page 22Celebrex, Page 30.

Decision rationale: Celebrex contains Celecoxib, which is a non steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is a COX-2 selective inhibitor, a drug that directly targets COX-2, an enzyme responsible for inflammation and pain. According to CA MTUS chronic pain medical treatment guidelines "Anti-inflammatories are the traditional first line of treatment, to reduce pain so activity and functional restoration can resume, but long-term use may not be warranted. (Van Tulder-Cochrane, 2000) A comprehensive review of clinical trials on the efficacy and safety of drugs for the treatment of low back pain concludes that available evidence supports the effectiveness of non-selective non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in chronic LBP and of antidepressants in chronic LBP. (Schnitzer, 2004) COX-2 inhibitors (e.g., Celebrex) may be considered if the patient has a risk of GI complications, but not for the majority of patients." According to the cited guidelines, Generic NSAIDs and COX-2 inhibitors have similar efficacy and risks when used for less than 3 months. In addition, per the cited guidelines COX-2 inhibitors (e.g., Celebrex) may be considered if the patient has a risk of GI complications, but not for the majority of patients. History of GI complications, peptic ulcer or history of GI bleeding is not specified in the records provided. Patient was taking naproxen for a long time. Failure to generic NSAIDs like ibuprofen or naproxen is not specified in the records provided. Celebrex 200mg #30 is not medically necessary for this patient at this time.