

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 12/11/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	8/28/2013
Date of Injury:	10/15/2008
IMR Application Received:	9/3/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0019841

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for omeprazole 20mg is **medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 9/3/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/28/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 11/20/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for omeprazole 20mg is **medically necessary and appropriate**.

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine, and is licensed to practice in California. 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The claimant is a 68 year old male who sustained a work related injury on October 15, 2008. The mechanism of injury was not included for review. He has been diagnosed with chronic low back pain, psoriasis vulgaris and keratoderma. Physical exam was notable for lumbar spine tenderness L1 to S1 with palpable tenderness to the bilateral paraspinal muscles; quadriceps and gastrosoleus strength is 4/5 bilaterally and he has red patches on the palms and plantar surfaces of the feet bilaterally. Medical treatment includes naproxen, omeprazole, Tylenol # 3, topical Taclonex and laser treatments.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for omeprazole 20mg:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, NSAIDs, which are a part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines (2009), page 68, which is a part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

Per California MTUS guidelines, proton pump inhibitors are recommended for patients taking NSAIDs with documented gastrointestinal (GI) distress symptoms or specific GI risk factors. There is documentation indicating the employee has an increased risk for GI related issues with NSAIDs, specifically his age of 68. GI risk factors include an age of 65 or greater, history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding, or perforation, concurrent use of aspirin, corticosteroids, and/or anticoagulants or high dose/multiple NSAID. The employee has been maintained on naproxen with omeprazole for GI protection. The employee has no documented GI related issues on the present medical regimen. Based on the available records provided for review and his established risk factor, the medical necessity for Prilosec has been established. **The request for omeprazole 20 mg is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/dso

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.