

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/18/2013



Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/23/2013
Date of Injury:	8/27/2007
IMR Application Received:	7/31/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0005448

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **60 Pantoprazole-Relafen 500mg is not medically necessary and appropriate.**
- 2) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **90 Synovacin-Glucosamine Sulf 500mg is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 7/31/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/23/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 8/14/2013. 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 **60 Pantoprazole-Relafen 500mg** is not **medically necessary and appropriate**.
- 2) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **90 Synovacin-Glucosamine Sulf 500mg** is not **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 Anesthesiology and Pain Management, 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.

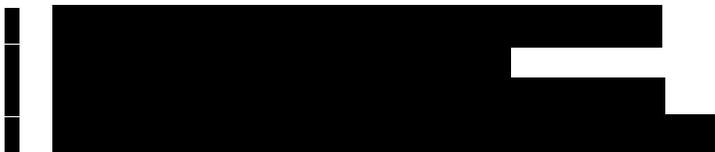
Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

51 y/o female injured worker who sustained an injury and has been diagnosed with Recurrent Bilat CTS. UR performed on 7/23/13 evaluated clinical documentation, the most recent of which was dated 6/27/13 (this was a letter from provider addressing denial of PT request). The most recent medical record available for my review is a note dated 6/24/13.

The issue at hand is whether the 60 Pantoprazole-Relafen 500mg is/are medically necessary and appropriate and whether the 90 Synovacin-Glucosamine Sulf 500mg is/are medically necessary and appropriate.

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:



1) Regarding the request for 60 Pantoprazole-Relafen 500mg:

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

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines (May 2009), NSAIDs, GI symptoms & Cardiovascular Risk, which is part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, NSAIDs, GI symptoms & Cardiovascular Risk, page 68, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

The MTUS Guidelines state that use of proton pump inhibitors is useful in patients at risk for gastrointestinal (GI) and/or cardiovascular events. A medical record dated 6/6/2013 states “medications do help to reduce some pain and allow for greater function. The employee is tolerating them well without side effects.” However, there is no documentation of GI symptoms nor any risk for GI events. **The request for 60 Pantoprazole-Relafen 500 mg is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

2) Regarding the request for 90 Synovacin-Glucosamine Sulf 500mg:

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

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the California Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines (May 2009), Glucosamine, which is part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, Glucosamine, page 50, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

The MTUS Guidelines recommend Glucosamine as an option in patients with moderate arthritis pain, especially for knee osteoarthritis. The medical records provided for review do not include any evidence of arthritis (including knee arthritis) amenable to glucosamine treatment. **The request for 90 Synovacin-Glucosamine Sulf 500mg is not 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:



/reg

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.