

Cost Mitigation techniques in action





# Cost Mitigation results in successful consideration for alternative medication dosage

Meloxicam 5MG was a prohibitive cost driver in an allocated MSA. We worked with the adjuster to obtain a treating physician's note indicating the 7.5MG dosage could be utilized and the claimant was switched to this dose. The physician also noted another costly medication was discontinued. These changes resulted in a significant reduction of over \$622,000.



# Successful CMS rebuttal reduces costs of catheter supplies

We successfully argued that Medicare incorrectly calculated the pricing and frequency of the catheter replacements in the MSA. CMS agreed and reduced the MSA approval by over \$145,000.



## **RX Outreach helps to identify savings**

The original MSA included Omeprazole 40MG, priced at \$6.68/pill according to Redbook AWP prices (in February 2021). In February of 2022, we identified a significant drop in the price to \$0.99/pill and conducted an internal file audit of our completed MSAs to identify if there were any impacted claims for our clients. As a result, we were able to revise the prior completed MSA in March 2022 to capture the reduction in price and savings of \$105,000.



## Cost Mitigation removes costly medication from MSA

In an MSA completed in October 2023, the physician was prescribing Ondansetron 8MG ODT for the industrial injury. We advised the claims handler of this significant cost driver. Working with the adjuster, we obtained an updated physician letter stating that the Ondansetron was no longer being prescribed and should not be part of the treatment plan. The Ondansetron was removed from the MSA and resulted in a savings of over \$1.8 Million.



## **Amended Review results in significant savings**

In 2022, CMS approved a WCMSA for over \$1,200,500. After seeking Amended Review, we demonstrated to CMS that the costly Pennsaid medication had been discontinued and that provider visits and diagnostics had been reduced. The Amended Review WCMSA was over \$175,000, representing a 85% cost reduction and a savings of over \$1.025 Million.



Savings \$529,000

### **Provider Outreach helps remove Relistor** and spinal cord stimulator

Our cost mitigation team noted potential cost mitigation opportunities if the treating physician clarified if the medication Relistor was actively being prescribed and if the Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) continued to be recommended. We contacted the prescribing provider to clarify the current medications and treatment plan. Through our Cost Mitigation Outreach service, we successfully obtained a provider record indicating the Relistor was discontinued and the SCS was no longer part of the treatment plan. This successfully reduced the MSA by \$529,000.



### Provider Outreach identifies and reduces the impact of price difference between name versus generic brand

Lyrica is the brand formulation of Pregabalin, which is a medication used to treat neuropathic pain. In an MSA from November 2022, Lyrica was actively prescribed and filled by the treating physician and identified as the primary cost driver. We reached out for clarification from the treating physician to determine if the Lyrica was medically necessary or if generic Pregabalin would be as effective. The claimant was switched to generic Pregabalin, which reduced the MSA by approximately \$155,000.



#### Successful CMS Rebuttal corrects CMS's erroneous inclusion of COPD medications

The medications Trelegy, Ellipta and Albuterol Sulfate were excluded from the submitted MSA on the basis that they were related to the claimant's underlying COPD condition and therefore nonindustrial in nature. CMS countered to include the medications due to the carrier's acceptance of the pulmonary condition related to the debris in lungs from the industrial injury. It was argued that based on the limited acceptance of the pulmonary condition and that the COPD condition was a distinct condition that was not accepted and pre-dated the date of injury, those medications should be removed from the MSA. CMS agreed and removed the medication saving the client over \$184,000.00



To learn more about our cost mitigation program, please contact:

+1.866.630.2772 / CPinfo@verisk.com / verisk.com/casualty-solutions