

Case Number:	CM13-0005998		
Date Assigned:	11/08/2013	Date of Injury:	11/30/2011
Decision Date:	12/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/15/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/31/2013

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

The patient is a 53-year-old female who was injured on November 30, 2011. The patient continued to experience pain in her right knee. Physical examination was notable for restricted range of motion of the right knee, tenderness over the medial joint line, and medial patellar facet joint, and positive patellar grind test. Diagnoses included knee pain and pain in joint lower leg. Treatment included medications, surgery, and physical therapy. Request for authorization for Pennsaid solution 1.5% was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pennsaid 1.5% solution: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines(ODG), Pain (web: updated 6/7/13).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 111-112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain, Diclofenac.

Decision rationale: Pennsaid solution is the topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) diclofenac. Topical NSAIDs have been shown to be superior to placebo in the

treatment of osteoarthritis, but only in the short term and not for extended treatment. The effect appears to diminish over time. Absorption of the medication can occur and may have systemic side effects comparable to oral form. It is indicated for relief of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist). It has not been evaluated for treatment of the spine, hip or shoulder. In this case there is no documentation that the patient is suffering from osteoarthritis. Medical necessity has not been established. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.