

Case Number:	CM13-0012557		
Date Assigned:	09/26/2013	Date of Injury:	10/12/2009
Decision Date:	02/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/15/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/12/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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 physician 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 male who reported a work-related injury on 10/12/2009, specific mechanism of injury not stated.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Topical tramadol HLC powder 7% Gabapentin powder 7% Cyclobenzaprine HLC powder 5% in an Ultraderm base cream (DOS: 05/21/13): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: The current request is not supported. There was no documentation submitted for review evidencing the patient's course of treatment, treating diagnoses, or efficacy of the patient's utilization of the requested topical analgesic. Additionally, California MTUS indicates that topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized control trials to determine efficacy or safety. Furthermore, any compounded product that contains at least 1 drug or drug class that is not recommended, is not recommended. The requested components for the compounded topical analgesic are not supported via California MTUS

Guidelines. Given all the above, the request for Topical tramadol HLC powder 7% Gabapentin powder 7% Cyclobenzaprine HLC powder 5% in an Ultraderm base cream (DOS: 05/21/2013) is not medically necessary or appropriate.

Flurbiprofen 10% Capsaicin powder 0.025% Menthol 2% Camphor crystals 1% in an Ultraderm base cream (DOS: 5/21/13): Upheld

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

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Tramadol HLC powder 7% Gabapentin powder 7% Cyclobenzaprine HLC powder 5% in an Ultraderm base cream (DOS: 05/21/13): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: The current request is not supported. There was no documentation submitted for review evidencing the patient's course of treatment, treating diagnoses, or efficacy of the patient's utilization of the requested topical analgesic. Additionally, California MTUS indicates that topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized control trials to determine efficacy or safety. Furthermore, any compounded product that contains at least 1 drug or drug class that is not recommended, is not recommended. The requested components for the compounded topical analgesic are not supported via California MTUS Guidelines. Given all the above, the request for Tramadol HLC powder 7% Gabapentin powder 7% Cyclobenzaprine HLC powder 5% in an Ultraderm base cream (DOS: 05/21/2013) is not medically necessary or appropriate.

Flurbiprofen 10% Capsaicin powder 0.025% Menthol 2% Camphor crystals 1% in an Ultraderm base cream (DOS: 5/21/13): Upheld

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