

Case Number:	CM13-0026427		
Date Assigned:	11/22/2013	Date of Injury:	07/12/2010
Decision Date:	07/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/09/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/19/2013

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 64-year-old male who was injured on July 12, 2010. The patient continued to experience pain in his lower back and neck. A physical examination was notable for low back spasm and decreased range of motion of the cervical spine. The patient's diagnoses included thoracic discogenic syndrome of the thoracic spine, discogenic syndrome of the lumbar spine, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, and thoracic compression fracture. The treatment included surgery, medications, and cervical collar. A request for authorization for compounded medical cream, Capsaicin/Menthol/Camphor/Tramadol was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COMPOUNDED TOPICAL CREAM: CAPSAICIN 0.0375%/ MENTHOL 10%/AMPHOR 2.5%/ TRAMADOL 20% CREAM FOUR TIMES A DAY AS NEEDED 30GM QTY 1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation TOPICAL ANALGESICS.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 111-112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation UpToDate: Camphor and menthol: Drug information.

Decision rationale: This medication is a topical compound containing Capsaicin, Menthol, Camphor, and Tramadol. Topical analgesics are recommended for neuropathic pain when anticonvulsants and antidepressants have failed. Capsaicin is recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or cannot tolerate other treatments. It is recommended for osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and chronic non-specific back pain and is considered experimental in high doses. It is not recommended. Capsaicin is recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or cannot tolerate other treatments. It is recommended for osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and chronic non-specific back pain and is considered experimental in high doses. Menthol is used for the treatment of dry, itchy skin. It may cause blistering or burning. It is not recommended. Camphor is used for the treatment of dry, itchy skin. It may cause blistering or burning. It is not recommended. Tramadol is a synthetic opioid affecting the central nervous system. It has several side effects, which include increasing the risk of seizure in patients taking selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, tricyclic antidepressants and other opioids. It is not recommended as a topical preparation. Compounded topical analgesics are commonly prescribed and there is little to no research to support the use of these compounds. Furthermore, the guidelines state that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. This medication contains drugs that are not recommended. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.