

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0026613		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/22/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/12/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/21/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/23/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/19/2013

### 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 Internal 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 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 claimant is a 51 year old female who sustained a work related injury on 10/12/2011. She hurt her right shoulder and neck while lifting a mattress. Diagnoses include cervical spondylosis C4-C7 with cord compression at C5-C6 and C6-C7, post cervical decompression and interbody fusion, and right shoulder pain. Per the documentation she has ongoing neck and right shoulder pain which has been treated with medical therapy, cervical epidural steroid injections, and physical therapy.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Dendracin cream:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

**Decision rationale:** The requested product, Dendracin topical cream is a non-FDA approved topical analgesic containing capsaicin, methanol and methyl salicylate. There is no documentation provided necessitating use of this requested topical medication. Per California MTUS Guidelines, topical analgesics are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when

trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. These agents are applied topically to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. In this case there have been no studies of the efficacy of this specific topical analgesic in peer-reviewed literature. Medical necessity for the requested treatment has not been established. The requested treatment is not medically necessary.

**Prilosec 20mg #60:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs & GI symptoms Page(s): 68.

**Decision rationale:** Per California MTUS 2009, proton pump inhibitors are recommended for patients taking NSAIDs with documented gastrointestinal (GI) distress symptoms or specific GI risk factors. There is no documentation indicating the patient has had any adverse GI symptoms with Voltaren therapy. She had documented GI issues with Naproxen. GI risk factors include: age of more than 65 years, history of peptic ulcer, GI bleeding, or perforation; concurrent use of aspirin, corticosteroids, and/or anticoagulants or high dose/multiple NSAID. The claimant has not tried Voltaren therapy. Based on the available information provided for review, the medical necessity for Prilosec has not been established. The requested medication is not medically necessary.