

Case Number:	CM13-0034288		
Date Assigned:	12/06/2013	Date of Injury:	04/02/1999
Decision Date:	02/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/10/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/26/2013

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 Tox Addiction, has a subspecialty in Pediatrics and is licensed to practice in New York and Maine. 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.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

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

59 year old female with date of injury in 4/2/99: Patient complains of chronic low back pain, and bilateral knee pain. Patient had left knee arthroscopy and right hip surgery. It is reported that the patient returned to work with restriction. The treatment in dispute is Fluriflex 180 mg cream, apply a thin layer to affected area twice a day and TG Hot cream, 180mg.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Fluriflex 180 mg cream: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111-113.

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

Decision rationale: Fluriflex is a combination topical cream containing flurbiprofen and cyclobenzaprine. As per MTUS guideline, the topical treatments are effective for acute pain. The therapy is considered largely experimental, and is primarily recommended when trials of antidepressants fail. Topical flurbiprofen or topical cyclobenzaprine are not approved by FDA for chronic and prolonged use. Also there are no studies or evidence in the medical literature supporting the use of the above topical product. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug that is not recommended is not recommended. Also the injury happened remotely, and

there is no evidence in literature substantiating sustained positive effects for a long standing and chronic musculoskeletal pain. Moreover, in 2006 , the FDA issued a warning with regards to toxicity of these compounded topical creams

TG HOT cream, 180mg: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 76-80.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111-117. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Martin D, Valdez J, Boren J, Mayersohn M. Dermal absorption of camphor, menthol, and methyl salicylate in humans. *J Clin Pharmacol.* 2004 Oct;44(10):1151-7. <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/2006/ucm108793.htm> (FDA warning)

Decision rationale: TG HOT combination topical cream containing Tramadol, Gabapentin, Menthol, Camphor, and Capsaicin. As per MTUS guideline, the topical treatments are effective for acute pain; the therapy is considered largely experimental; and primarily recommended when trials of antidepressants fail. Neither topical Tramadol nor Gabapentin, nor other compounds in this compounded cream, are approved by FDA for chronic and prolonged use for pain. Also in the medical literature there are no studies or evidence supporting the use of above topical product. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug that is not recommended is then not recommended. Also the injury happened remotely, and there is no evidence in literature substantiating sustained positive effects for a long standing and chronic musculoskeletal pain. Moreover, in 2006, FDA issued a warning with regards to toxicity of these compounded topical creams. And finally the components of this cream can be absorbed systemically and may cause toxicity (Martin D, 2004).