

Case Number:	CM13-0036363		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	04/03/2007
Decision Date:	04/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/20/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/21/2013

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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:

██████████ is a standard work-related injury on April 3, 2007. Subsequently she developed chronic back pain. According to a note dated on June 27, 2013, the patient reported back and right leg pain. His physical examination demonstrated numbness in the territory of L4-L5 and L5-S1 right lower extremity. The provider requested authorization to use the topical ointment.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TOPICAL COMPOUND OINTMENT.: 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.

Decision rationale: The Expert Reviewer's decision rationale: According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. There is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not

recommended. There is no clear evidence that the patient developed neuropathic pain. There is no documentation of failure or intolerance of NSAID or oral first line medications for the treatment of pain. There is no evidence that topical ointment is effective for the treatment of back and neck pain. There is no justification for the use of Topical Compound Ointment. Therefore, the prospective request for Topical Compound Ointment is not medically necessary.