

Case Number:	CM13-0040480		
Date Assigned:	03/21/2014	Date of Injury:	11/25/2008
Decision Date:	04/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/07/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/29/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

This is a 46 year-old female with a 11/25/08 industrial injury claim. She had been diagnosed with 2-level lumbar disc herniation and radiculopathy. The IMR application shows a dispute with the 10/7/13 UR decision on a compounded topical medication. The 10/7/13 UR decision is by [REDACTED] and was based on review of [REDACTED] 6/7/13 and 9/16/13 medical reports. Unfortunately, neither of those reports have been provided for this IMR.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TOPICAL COMPOUND [FLURBIPROFEN 20% GEL, KETOPROFEN 20%GEL, KETAMINE 10% GEL], 120GM: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: The medical reports that request the compounded topical and medical rationale have not been provided for this IMR. The patient apparently has low back pain and lumbar radiculopathy. I have been asked to review for necessity of a compounded topical

containing Flurbiprofen, ketoprofen, ketamine. On page 111, under topical analgesics, MTUS gives a general statement about compounded products: "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." The compound contains the NSAID Flurbiprofen. MTUS for topical NSAIDs states: this class in general is only recommended for relief of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist). MTUS specifically states "There is little evidence to utilize topical NSAIDs for treatment of osteoarthritis of the spine, hip or shoulder. " The request for use of Flurbiprofen/topical NSAID for the lumbar spine is not in accordance with MTUS guidelines, therefore the whole compounded topical that contains Flurbiprofen is not recommended.

TOPICAL COMPOUND [GABAPENTIN 10%, CYCLOBENZAPRINE 10%, CAPSAICIN 0.0375%], 120GM, APPLY 2-3 TIMES: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: The medical reports that request the compounded topical and medical rationale have not been provided for this IMR. The patient apparently has low back pain and lumbar radiculopathy. I have been asked to review for necessity of a compounded topical containing gabapentin, cyclobenzaprine, and capsaicin. MTUS states "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." The compound contains gabapentin. MTUS specifically states topical gabapentin is not recommended. Therefore the whole compounded topical is not recommended