

Case Number:	CM13-0044252		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	07/25/2008
Decision Date:	04/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/22/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/28/2013

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 & Rehabilitation 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 patient reported a date of injury of 7/25/08. Mechanism of injury occurred while the injured worker was assisting the client from a wheelchair to a bed. In this motion, the patient injured her low back. Just had extensive treatment, including physical therapy, medications, and injections. Patient has reportedly been approved for a lumbar fusion surgery, however, the surgery is on hold until the patient can lose some weight. The patient has been using Diclofenac and Dendracin for pain control. Diagnoses are lumbar disc disease with radiculitis, lumbar DDD, and low back pain. Refills for Dendracin were requested on 10/08/13. This was submitted to Utilization Review on 10/22/13 and denied. An 11/08/13 follow-up report appeals the denial and tries to establish that Dendracin is not a compounded topical, so guideline recommendations that are adverse to compounded topicals do not apply. It then notes that it consists of multiple ingredients, including Methyl Salicylate, Benzocaine, Menthol and Capsaicin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

DENDRACIN CREAM AS DIRECTED QD 60, 30: 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 Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS notes that with regards to compounded products, they are not recommended if one drug/class is not recommended. Guidelines go on to state that if a compounded agent is required, there should be clear knowledge of the specific analgesic effect of each agent and how it would be useful for a specific goal required. The compounded topical in this case contains Methyl Salicylate, Benzocaine, Menthol and Capsaicin. Guidelines only support the topical anesthetic, Lidocaine, and only recommend it in the form of Lidoderm. Guidelines do not support other topical anesthetics, such as Benzocaine, that do not have FDA approval. While some of these individually are guideline supported, there is no clear justification to compound them together, and submitted records do not indicate that the new compounded product has FDA approval. I do not see any clear documentation that suggests that the requesting physician has clear knowledge of why each specific agent is being combined or what specific goal would be achieved by compounding these specific ingredients together. The FDA warns against the practice of compounding topical anesthetic creams. Guidelines go on to state that if a compounded agent is required, there should be clear knowledge of the specific analgesic effect of each agent and how it would be useful for a specific goal required. I do not see any clear documentation that suggests that the requesting physician has clear knowledge of why each specific agent is being combined or what specific goal would be achieved by compounding these ingredients together. Medical necessity of Dendracin is not established.