

Case Number:	CM13-0044863		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	09/12/2003
Decision Date:	04/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/02/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/01/2013

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:

The patient is a 50 year-old male with a date of injury of 9/12/03. The listed diagnoses per [REDACTED] are severe lumbar radiculopathy, chronic pain syndrome, prescription narcotic dependence, and post-laminectomy syndrome, status post lumbar disc replacement 2005, and lumbar laminectomy in 2008. According to the report dated 9/14/13, the patient complains of severe low back pain radiating into the legs. He states the pain is shooting and shocking down the legs, and throbbing and aching in his back. The patient states that Lyrica helps a lot with the shooting pain. The primary treating physician is requesting refills for Exalgo, Actiq, toradol, Zeel/traumeel, Lyrica, Flexeril, and Ativan. The primary treating physician also requests MS Contin and morphine sulfate.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

240 GRAMS OF KETOFLEX COMPOUND AND OINTMENT, TRANSDERMAL THREE TIMES A DAY: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 112.

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

Decision rationale: This patient complains of severe low back pain radiating into the legs. The primary treating physician is requesting Ketoflex compound cream to be applied to the affected areas for pain. The MTUS Guidelines state that topical analgesics are largely experimental and used with few randomized control trials to determine efficacy or safety. The MTUS further states that any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. The MTUS Guidelines support the use of topical NSAIDs for peripheral joint arthritis or tendonitis; however, non-FDA approved agents like Ketoprofen are not recommended for any topical use. The MTUS further states this agent is not currently FDA approved for a topical application as it has an extremely high incidence of photocontact dermatitis. The request is noncertified.

60 LYRICA 250MG, ONE TWICE A DAY: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 19-20.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 19.

Decision rationale: This patient complains of severe low back pain radiating into the legs. The treater is requesting a refill of Lyrica. The MTUS guidelines state that Lyrica has been documented to be effective in treatment of diabetic neuropathy and postherpetic neuralgia, has FDA approval for both Final Determination Letter for IMR [REDACTED] 4 indications, and is considered first-line treatment for both. In June 2007, the FDA announced the approval of Lyrica as the first approved treatment for fibromyalgia. The treater is prescribing Lyrica for patient's neuropathic pain. The report from 9/14/13 indicates that Lyrica is helping the patient a lot with shooting pain. The requested Lyrica is certified.