

Case Number:	CM13-0062069		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	05/17/2010
Decision Date:	11/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/26/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/06/2013

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 42-year-old male with a 5/17/10 date of injury. The medical records were reviewed. At the time (11/8/13) of request for authorization for TGICE (Tramadol 8%/Gabapentin 10%/Menthol 5%/Camphor 2%) 180 Grams and FluriFlex (Flurbiprofen 15%/Cyclobenzaprine 10) 180 Grams, there is documentation of subjective (mild to moderate low back pain) and objective (tenderness to palpitation over the lumbar spine and guarding) findings. The current diagnoses are L5-S1 disc protrusion and thoracic sprain. The treatment to date includes an epidural Steroid injection and ongoing treatment with TGICE and FluriFlex.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TGICE (Tramadol 8%/Gabapentin 10%/Menthol 5%/Camphor 2%) 180 Grams: 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 Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that Ketoprofen, Lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), Capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, Baclofen and other muscle relaxants, and Gabapentin and other anti-epilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of L5-S1 disc protrusion and thoracic sprain. However, the request for FluriFlex (Flurbiprofen 15%/Cyclobenzaprine 10) contains at least one drug (Cyclobenzaprine) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for FluriFlex (Flurbiprofen 15%/Cyclobenzaprine 10) 180 Grams is not medically necessary.

FluriFlex (Flurbiprofen 15%/Cyclobenzaprine 10) 180 Grams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 112-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that Ketoprofen, Lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), Capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, Baclofen and other muscle relaxants, and Gabapentin and other anti-epilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of L5-S1 disc protrusion and thoracic sprain. However, the request for TGICE (Tramadol 8%/Gabapentin 10%/Menthol 5%/Camphor 2%) contains at least one drug (Gabapentin) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for TGICE (Tramadol 8%/Gabapentin 10%/Menthol 5%/Camphor 2%) 180 Grams is not medically necessary.