

Case Number:	CM13-0068540		
Date Assigned:	02/07/2014	Date of Injury:	01/04/2011
Decision Date:	05/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/12/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/19/2013

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 60-year-old female with a 1/4/11 date of injury. At the time (12/12/13) of the Decision for compound medications: Ketoprofen, Baclofen, Gabapentin, Tramadol, Lidocaine Ethoxy, custom cream, and Emulsifix, there is documentation of subjective (pain in the right sacroiliac joint with radiating pain down the right leg) and objective (tenderness to palpation over the lumbar spine and right sciatic with decreased lumbar range of motion) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar degenerative disc disease and sciatica), and treatment to date (acupuncture, injections, and Lidoderm patches).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COMPOUND MEDICATIONS: KETOPROFEN, BACLOFEN, GABEPANTIN, TRAMADOL, LIDOCAINE ETHOXY, CUSTON CREAM, EMULSIFIX: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation he Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

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

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 antiepilepsy 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. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of lumbar degenerative disc disease and sciatica. However, the requested compound medications: Ketoprofen, Baclofen, Gabapentin, Tramadol, Lidocaine Ethoxy, custom cream, and Emulsifix contain at least one drug (Ketoprofen, Lidocaine, and Gabapentin) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for compound medications: Ketoprofen, Baclofen, Gabapentin, Tramadol, Lidocaine Ethoxy, custom cream, and Emulsifix are not medically necessary.