

Case Number:	CM13-0069744		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	12/19/2000
Decision Date:	06/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/11/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/23/2013

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:

The California MTUS indicated that topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. Topical Salicylates are recommended a thorough search of FDA.gov, did not indicate there was a formulation of topical Tramadol that had been FDA approved. The approved form of Tramadol is for oral consumption, which is not recommended as a first line therapy. Gabapentin: Not recommended. There is no peer-reviewed literature to support use Capsaicin is recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments. There have been no studies of a 0.0375% formulation of capsaicin and there is no current indication that this increase over a 0.025% formulation would provide any further efficacy. California MTUS guidelines recommend Topical Salicylates. The duration of use for this medication could not be established through supplied documentation; however, the injured worker was utilizing topical ointments and creams since 01/2013. The clinical documentation submitted for review failed to provide documentation of exceptional factors to warrant nonadherence to guideline recommendations. The request as submitted failed to indicate the frequency for the requested medication. Given the above, the request for TG Hot 180 g is not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TGHOT #180GM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines..

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines Tramadol, Gabapentin, Topical Capsaicin, Topical Analg.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS indicated that topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. Topical Salicylates are recommended a thorough search of FDA.gov, did not indicate there was a formulation of topical Tramadol that had been FDA approved. The approved form of Tramadol is for oral consumption, which is not recommended as a first line therapy. Gabapentin: Not recommended. There is no peer-reviewed literature to support use Capsaicin is recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments. There have been no studies of a 0.0375% formulation of capsaicin and there is no current indication that this increase over a 0.025% formulation would provide any further efficacy. California MTUS guidelines recommend Topical Salicylates. The duration of use for this medication could not be established through supplied documentation; however, the injured worker was utilizing topical ointments and creams since 01/2013. The clinical documentation submitted for review failed to provide documentation of exceptional factors to warrant nonadherence to guideline recommendations. The request as submitted failed to indicate the frequency for the requested medication. Given the above, the request for TG Hot 180 g is not medically necessary.