

Case Number:	CM14-0001780		
Date Assigned:	01/22/2014	Date of Injury:	10/05/2002
Decision Date:	05/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/16/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/06/2014

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 Internal Medicine 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 is a 55 year old female with date of injury of 10/05/2002 with reported industrial accident lifting an I-beam and pain at the chest wall/costochondral area. Patient has had chronic symptoms since. She also has co-morbid depression listed as a diagnosis. She has been on a regimen of Effexor XR, Amitriptyline, Celebrex, Lidoderm patch and Oxycodone. It is reported that her symptoms are generally well controlled on this regimen.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COMPOUND GABAPENTIN POWDER QTY:120.00: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: The patient has been on a stable regimen of multidrug classes. The topical analgesics can be effective for some circumstances. However, gabapentin is never recommended for topical use as very little evidence exists and no peer reviewed studies exist. According to MTUS guidelines, any topical compound that has at least one of the non-recommended drugs in it, (gabapentin being one) is never recommended and the Gabapentin powder is not certified.

