

Case Number:	CM14-0101887		
Date Assigned:	09/24/2014	Date of Injury:	06/28/2013
Decision Date:	10/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/02/2014

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 Occupational 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 47-year-old male with a 6/28/13 date of injury. At the time (6/6/14) of request for authorization for compound medication: Capsaicin 0.025%, Flurbiprofen 15%, Tramadol 15%, Menthol 2%, Camphor 2%, 240 grams; and compound medication: Diclofenac 25%, Tramadol 15%, 240 grams, there is documentation of subjective (not specified) and objective (not specified) findings, current diagnoses (bilateral MCP joint osteoarthritis and bilateral synovial cyst), and treatment to date (medications).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound medication: capsaicin 0.025%, flurbiprofen 15%, tramadol 15%, menthol 2%, camphor 2%, 240 grams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Chronic Pain Section, Medication-compound drugs

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 (including NSAIDs,

opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants, glutamate receptor antagonists, adenosine, cannabinoids, cholinergic receptor agonists, prostanoids, bradykinin, adenosine triphosphate, biogenic amines, and nerve growth factor); 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. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Compound medication: capsaicin 0.025%, flurbiprofen 15%, tramadol 15%, menthol 2%, camphor 2%, 240 grams is not medically necessary.

Compound Medication: diclofenac 25%, tramadol 15%, 240 grams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Chronic Pain Section, Medication-compound drugs

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 (including NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants, glutamate receptor antagonists, adenosine, cannabinoids, cholinergic receptor agonists, prostanoids, bradykinin, adenosine triphosphate, biogenic amines, and nerve growth factor); 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. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Compound Medication: diclofenac 25%, tramadol 15%, 240 grams is not medically necessary.