

Case Number:	CM14-0016605		
Date Assigned:	04/30/2014	Date of Injury:	01/15/1999
Decision Date:	07/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/31/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/10/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 case involves a 51 year-old female patient with a 1/15/1999 industrial injury claim. The single medical report provided for this IMR is dated 12/4/13 from [REDACTED]. The patient presents with residual symptomatology in the right knee. She also has right foot pain. She has been diagnosed as s/p right 5th metatarsal fracture; right ankle and foot sprain with plantar fasciitis. [REDACTED] provided a right knee Celestone injection, and UDT and recommends orthopedic follow-up. On 1/31/14 UR denied Cooleeze (meth/camp/cap/hyalur acid) and a compound topical with gabapentin and capsaicin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COOLEEZE 120GM (MENTHOL/CAMPBOR/CAPSAICIN/HYALURONIC ACID 3,5%, 0.5%, .006%, 0.2%): 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 presents with right knee and foot pain. I have been asked to review for Cooleeze (menthol/camphor/capsaicin/hyaluronic acid). The request appears to be for two different items, Cooleeze, according to the vendor is not a medical product, but uses evaporation to cool the skin. The compounded topical medication with menthol, camphor, capsaicin and hyaluronic acid is a separate product. Cooleeze is not a medical product and is not claimed to treat any medical condition. Regarding the compounded topical that contains menthol/camphor/capsaicin/hyaluronic acid, the compound contains Menthol. On page 111, under topical analgesics, MTUS gives a general statement about compounded products: "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." MTUS/ACOEM did not discuss menthol, so ODG guidelines, were consulted. ODG, under "Biofreeze" notes the active ingredient in Biofreeze is menthol and that it is a cryotherapy that takes the place of ice packs and are used for acute pain. In this case, the patient is not in the acute phase, and ODG does not recommend menthol or ice packs in the chronic phase. Therefore the whole compounded topical that contains menthol, would not be recommended.

120GM GABAPENTIN 10% IN CAPSAICIN SOLUTION LIQUID: 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 presents with right knee and foot pain. I have been asked to review for a compounded topical medication that contains gabapentin and capsaicin. On page 111, under topical analgesics, MTUS gives a general statement about compounded products: "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." The compound contains gabapentin. MTUS specifically states topical gabapentin is not recommended. Therefore, the whole compounded topical that contains gabapentin is not recommended.