

Case Number:	CM14-0137728		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	11/23/2011
Decision Date:	10/02/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/26/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Massachusetts. 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 documents available for review, the patient is a 76 year old male. The date of injury is November 23, 2011. The patient was injured upon tripping on a pallet and landing on his left knee. The patient subsequently sustained numerous injuries. The patient carries the current diagnoses of radiculopathy, cervicgia, sprain/strain shoulder, low back pain, status post knee surgery, knee pain. The patient is maintained on the multimodal pain medication regimen including two compounded topical creams consisting of ketoprofen and cyclophene. A request for compounded topical creams consisting of ketoprofen and cyclophene was denied.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound medication, creams (Ketoprofen 20% in PLO gel 120gms): Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS, there is little to no research to support the use of topical compounded creams. The use of these compounded agents requires knowledge of the specific analgesic effect of each agent and how it will be useful for the specific therapeutic goal

required. Topical analgesics are largely experimental and there are a few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Therefore, at this time, the requirements for treatment have not been met and medical necessity has not been established.

Compound medication, cream (Cyclophene 5% in PLO gel 120gms): Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS, there is little to no research to support the use of topical compounded creams. The use of these compounded agents requires knowledge of the specific analgesic effect of each agent and how it will be useful for the specific therapeutic goal required. Topical analgesics are largely experimental and there are a few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Therefore, at this time, the requirements for treatment have not been met and medical necessity has not been established.