

Case Number:	CM14-0149703		
Date Assigned:	09/24/2014	Date of Injury:	01/22/2014
Decision Date:	12/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/15/2014

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 Management 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 52-year-old male with a 1/22/14 date of injury. At the time (7/28/14) of the request for authorization for Voltaren gel, there is documentation of subjective (constant, moderate pain in his low back, weakness of bilateral legs, weakness of right arm and numbness of right fingers) and objective (tenderness of the low back, absent reflexes of both knees) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy and sprains & strains of knee and leg), and treatment to date (medication including Flector patch and NSAIDs). There is no documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist), failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs, and the intention for short-term use (4-12 weeks).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Voltaren gel: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 71.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents), Page(s): 111-112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain, Diclofenac sodium.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist) and short-term use (4-12 weeks), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Voltaren Gel 1%. ODG identifies documentation of failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Voltaren Gel. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of lumbar intervertebral disc without myelopathy and sprains & strains of knee and leg. However, there is no documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist) and failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs. In addition, there is no documentation of the intention for short-term use (4-12 weeks). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Voltaren gel is not medically necessary.