

Case Number:	CM14-0150331		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	05/25/2006
Decision Date:	11/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/05/2014
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 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 59-year-old male with a 5/25/06 date of injury. At the time (8/8/14) of the Decision for Voltaren gel 1% 4gms, there is documentation of subjective (severe neck and low back pain) and objective (tenderness over the L4 spine level and decreased lumbar range of motion) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar spinal stenosis and cervical strain), and treatment to date (medications (including Voltaren tablet and ongoing treatment with Vicodin and Lunesta)). 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.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

VOLTAREN GEL 1% 4GMS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs) 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. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. 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 spinal stenosis and cervical strain. However, there is no documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist). In addition, there is no documentation of failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Voltaren gel 1% 4gms is not medically necessary.