

Case Number:	CM14-0168343		
Date Assigned:	10/16/2014	Date of Injury:	11/23/2009
Decision Date:	12/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/13/2014

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 & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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:

The patient is a 57year old female with an injury date on 11/23/2009. Based on the 08/21/2014 progress report provided by [REDACTED] the diagnoses are: 1. Dislocation of knee2. Pain in jointAccording to this report, the patient complains of pain in the bilateral knee, bilateral wrist and cervical spine. Objective findings indicate "pain, stiffness, limited range of motion and a limping ambulation." Pain is rated as an 8/10. "X-ray was taken of the bilateral knees (three views each) and bilateral tibia (two views each) shows no increase of osteoarthritis." There were no other significant findings noted on this report. The utilization review denied the request on 09/11/2014. [REDACTED] is the requesting provider, and he provided treatment reports from 01/24/2014 to 08/21/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Keratek gel #4oz: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics, NSAIDs.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical creams, Topical Analgesics, Medications for chronic pain Page(s): 111, 112, 60, 61.

Decision rationale: According to the 08/21/2014 report by [REDACTED] this patient presents with pain in the bilateral knee, bilateral wrist and cervical spine. The provider is requesting Keratek gel #4oz. Keratek contains methyl salicylate. For salicylate, a topical NSAID, MTUS does allow it for peripheral joint arthritis/tendinitis problems. In this case, this patient does present with osteoarthritis peripheral joint problems to warrant a compound product with salicylate. However, there is no discussion as to how this topical product is used or its efficacy. MTUS page 60 require recording of pain and function when medications are used for chronic pain. Therefore, this request is not medically necessary.

Flurbiprofen/cyclo/menth cream 20%/10%/4% #180gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics, NSAIDs.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical creams, Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111, 112.

Decision rationale: According to the 08/21/2014 report by [REDACTED] this patient presents with pain in the bilateral knee, bilateral wrist and cervical spine. The provider is requesting Flurbiprofen/Cyclo/Menth cream 20%/10%/4% #180gm. Regarding topical compounds, MTUS states that if one of the compounded product is not recommended then the entire compound is not recommended. In this case, Cyclobenzaprine topicals, MTUS states other muscle relaxants: There is no evidence for use of any other muscle relaxant as a topical product. Therefore, this request is not medically necessary.