

Case Number:	CM14-0168960		
Date Assigned:	10/17/2014	Date of Injury:	05/20/2007
Decision Date:	11/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/14/2014

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 female with a 5/20/07 date of injury. At the time (9/29/14) of the Decision for Gaba/Lido 10/5% 180gm and Baclofen/Flurb/Acetyl-L-Carnitine 2/5/15% 180gm, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain radiating to both legs and feet) and objective (tenderness over L3-S1 as well as sciatic notch) findings, current diagnoses (cervical and lumbar discopathy), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Wellbutrin, Soma, Gabapentin, Norco, Ibuprofen, Ketoprofen, Lidoderm patch, Zanaflex, and Ambien)).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Gaba/Lido 10/5% 180gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

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

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that ketoprofen, lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, baclofen and other

muscle relaxants, and gabapentin and other anti-epilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical sprain, carpal tunnel syndrome, and thoracic/lumbar sprain. However, the requested Gaba/Lido 10/5% contains at least one drug (Gabapentin and Lidocaine) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Gaba/Lido 10/5% 180gm is not medically necessary.

Baclofen/Flurb/Acetyl-L-Carnitine 2/5/15% 180gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

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

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that ketoprofen, lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, baclofen and other muscle relaxants, and gabapentin and other anti-epilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical sprain, carpal tunnel syndrome, and thoracic/lumbar sprain. However, the requested Baclofen/Flurb/Acetyl-L-Carnitine 2/5/15% contains at least one drug (Baclofen) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Baclofen/Flurb/Acetyl-L-Carnitine 2/5/15% 180gm is not medically necessary.