

Case Number:	CM14-0026328		
Date Assigned:	06/13/2014	Date of Injury:	07/30/2013
Decision Date:	07/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/03/2014

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 and Rehabilitation 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:

This is a patient with a date of injury of 7/30/13. A utilization review determination dated 2/25/14 recommends non-certification of compounded Flurbiprofen/Cyclobenzaprine. 1/13/14 medical report identifies pain in the low back and left hip. On exam, there is lumbar spine tenderness and limited ROM, left shoulder tenderness and limited ROM with positive impingement, apprehension sign, and empty can test, and left hip/thigh tenderness and limited ROM.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COMPOUND 240 GM FLURBIPROFEN 25%, CYCLOBENZAPRINE 2%: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Compound 240gm Flurbiprofen 25%, Cyclobenzaprine 2%, California MTUS notes that topical NSAIDs are indicated for "Osteoarthritis and tendinitis, in particular, that of the knee and elbow or other joints that are amenable to topical treatment: Recommended for short-term use (4-12 weeks). There is little

evidence to utilize topical NSAIDs for treatment of osteoarthritis of the spine, hip or shoulder. Neuropathic pain: Not recommended as there is no evidence to support use." Muscle relaxants are not supported by the CA MTUS for topical use. Within the documentation available for review, none of the above mentioned criteria has been documented. Furthermore, there is no clear rationale for the use of topical medications rather than the FDA-approved oral forms for this patient. In light of the above issues, the currently requested Compound 240gm Flurbiprofen 25%, Cyclobenzaprine 2%, is not medically necessary.