

Case Number:	CM14-0026802		
Date Assigned:	03/05/2014	Date of Injury:	11/15/2008
Decision Date:	04/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/04/2014

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 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 female with a 11/15/08 date of injury. At the time of request for authorization for Compound Cream, there is documentation of subjective (low back pain with pain radiating into the right leg) and objective (restricted lumbar range of motion, positive straight leg raise, and pain with facet loading) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar degenerative disc disease and chronic low back pain), and treatment to date (medications). Medical reports identify compound cream prescribed "contains Flurbiprofen, Ketamine, and Cyclobenzaprine".

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COMPOUND CREAM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 26-27.

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 antiepilepsy 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 lumbar degenerative disc disease and chronic low back pain. In addition, given documentation that the compound cream prescribed contains Flurbiprofen, Ketamine, and Cyclobenzaprine, there is documentation that the compound cream contains at least one drug (muscle relaxant) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Compound Cream is not medically necessary.