

Case Number:	CM14-0033065		
Date Assigned:	04/25/2014	Date of Injury:	03/07/2002
Decision Date:	07/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/19/2014

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 51-year-old male with a 3/7/02 date of injury. At the time (12/18/13) of request for authorization for compound: TGIce (tramadol/gabapentin/menthol/camphor 8/10/2/2%) cream 180gm, there is documentation of subjective (right shoulder pain rated as a 5-6 out of 10 with pins and needles sensation, and stabbing low back pain) and objective (decreased right shoulder range of motion with positive impingement sign and tenderness to palpation over the acromioclavicular joint; and reduced lumbar range of motion with tenderness to palpation over the thoracolumbar region) findings, current diagnoses (status post thoracic spine fusion, cervical discopathy, lumbar discopathy with radiculopathy, right shoulder rotator cuff tear, and right shoulder acromioclavicular impingement syndrome), and treatment to date (medications (Tramadol, Lyrica, and Omeprazole) and TENS unit).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

COMPOUND: TGLCE (TRAMADOL/GABAPENTIN/MENTHOL/CAMPHOR 8/10/2/2%) CREAM 180GM Cream 180gm: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: The 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. 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. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of status post thoracic spine fusion, cervical discopathy, lumbar discopathy with radiculopathy, right shoulder rotator cuff tear, and right shoulder acromioclavicular impingement syndrome. However, the requested compound: TGIce (tramadol/Gabapentin/menthol/camphor 8/10/2/2%) cream contains at least one drug (Gabapentin) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for compound: TGIce (tramadol/Gabapentin/menthol/camphor 8/10/2/2%) cream 180gm is not medically necessary.