

Case Number:	CM14-0047290		
Date Assigned:	07/02/2014	Date of Injury:	01/04/1995
Decision Date:	08/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/31/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/15/2014

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 72-year-old male with a 1/4/95 date of injury. At the time (3/31/14) of request for authorization for compound pharmaceutical muscle rub medication, there is documentation of subjective (intermittent flare-ups of moderate pain, associated muscle spasms in the low back region, pain radiating into the buttocks and occasionally the left lower extremity) and objective (2+ tenderness with associated muscle spasms and myofascial trigger points noted, decreased range of motion), current diagnoses (intervertebral disc syndrome, lumbar spine with intractable low back pain, and lumbar myofasciitis), and treatment to date (medications, interferential unit). 2/20/14 medical report identifies a request for compounds pharmaceutical muscle rub medications to help decrease/minimize usage of narcotic opioids medications.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound Pharmaceutical Muscle Rub Medication: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - Topical Anagesics.

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 intervertebral disc syndrome, lumbar spine with intractable low back pain, and lumbar myofasciitis. However, there is no documentation of the ingredient(s) of the requested compounded medication. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for compound pharmaceutical muscle rub medication is not medically necessary.