

Case Number:	CM14-0060563		
Date Assigned:	07/09/2014	Date of Injury:	07/09/2009
Decision Date:	12/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/31/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/01/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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:

The patient is a 69-year-old man who sustained a work-related injury on July 9, 2009. Subsequently, the patient developed with the chronic headache, lower back pain, cervical pain and bilateral sciatica. No recent clinical information was provided regarding the patient history, physical examination, diagnostic testing and treatment. The provider requested authorization for the use of topical analgesics.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Topical Compound- Capsaicin 25%, Flurbiprofen 15%, Tramadol 15%, Menthol 2%, Camphor 2% 240 grams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Topical Compounded Medications and The Food and Drug Administration, December 05,2006- News Release FDA, Compounds Topical anesthetic creams

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

Decision rationale: According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few

randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. That is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. There is no evidence that Tramadol cream as well as the other component of the proposed topical analgesic are effective in chronic pain management. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. Based on the above the Compounded medication: Topical Compound- Capsaicin 25%, Flurbiprofen 15%, Tramadol 15%, Menthol 2%, Camphor 2% 240 grams is not medically necessary.

Topical Compound- Flurbiprofen 25%, Lidocaine 10% 240 grams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Topical Compounded Medications and The Food and Drug Administration, December 05,2006- News Release FDA, Compounds Topical anesthetic creams

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

Decision rationale: According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. That is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. There is no evidence that Tramadol cream as well as the other component of the proposed topical analgesic are effective in chronic pain management. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. Based on the above the Compounded medication: Topical Compound- Flurbiprofen 25%, Lidocaine 10% 240 grams is not medically necessary.