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| Case Number: | CM14-0060675 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 09/12/2014 | Date of Injury: | 03/21/2011 |
| Decision Date: | 10/10/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 03/28/2014 |
| 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 Preventive Medicine 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 57-year-old male with a 3/21/11 date of injury. At the time (3/10/14) of request for authorization for Kera-Tek Analgesic Gel, there is documentation of subjective (neck, low back, and right forearm pain) and objective (decreased range of motion and tenderness over cervical spine, positive spurling's test on the right and cervical compression tests, and straight leg raise on the right) findings, current diagnoses (cervical disc degeneration, cervicgia, cervical spine stenosis, and lumbago), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Norco, Ambien, Nexium, and Restoril)). There is no documentation that trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

KERA-TEK ANALGESIC GEL: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TOPICAL ANALGESICS Page(s): 111.

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

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that topical analgesics are recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of cervical disc degeneration, cervicalgia, cervical spine stenosis, and lumbago. In addition, there is documentation of neuropathic pain. However, there is no documentation that trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Kera-Tek Analgesic Gel, is not medically necessary.