

Case Number:	CM14-0070334		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2014	Date of Injury:	03/03/1998
Decision Date:	09/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/15/2014

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 Family 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:

This is a female patient who reported an industrial injury to the neck on 3/3/1998, over 16 years ago, attributed to the performance of her job tasks. The patient is treated for the diagnosis of postlaminectomy syndrome cervical region and cervical spinal stenosis. The patient was noted to have chronic neck pain subsequent to the cervical spine surgery on 7/3/2013. The patient was prescribed topical Voltaren gel for pain.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Voltaren gel 1%100gm: 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, .22, 67-68, 71. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2ndEdition, (2004) Chapter 6 pages 114-15Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain Chapter topical analgesics; NSAIDs.

Decision rationale: The patient has been prescribed topical Voltaren gel for chronic neck pain post operatively. The patient has received topical NSAID gels for a prolonged period of time exceeding the time period recommended by evidence based guidelines. There is no demonstrated

medical necessity for both an oral NSAID and a topical NSAID. There is no provided subjective or objective evidence that the patient has failed or not responded to other conventional and recommended forms of treatment for relief of the effects of the industrial injury. Only if the subjective/objective findings are consistent with the recommendations of the CA MTUS, then topical use of topical preparations is only recommended for short-term use for specific orthopedic diagnoses. There is no documented functional improvement by the provider attributed to the topical NSAID. The topical NSAID, Voltaren 1% gel, is not medically necessary in addition to prescribed oral NSAIDs. The patient has been prescribed topical Voltaren gel for chronic neck pain post operatively. The patient has received topical NSAID gels for a prolonged period of time exceeding the time period recommended by evidence based guidelines. There is no demonstrated medical necessity for both an oral NSAID and a topical NSAID. There is no provided subjective or objective evidence that the patient has failed or not responded to other conventional and recommended forms of treatment for relief of the effects of the industrial injury. Only if the subjective/objective findings are consistent with the recommendations of the CA MTUS, then topical use of topical preparations is only recommended for short-term use for specific orthopedic diagnoses. There is no documented functional improvement by the provider attributed to the topical NSAID. The topical NSAID, Voltaren 1% gel, is not medically necessary in addition to prescribed oral NSAIDs.