

Case Number:	CM14-0078552		
Date Assigned:	07/18/2014	Date of Injury:	05/16/2011
Decision Date:	09/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/13/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/29/2014

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 Occupational 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 63-year-old female with a 5/16/11 date of injury. At the time (4/23/14) of request for authorization for Voltaren Gel, there is documentation of subjective (pain in both knees) and objective (tenderness over the peripatellar region and left medial joints, present patellofemoral crepitus, pain on McMurray's test and patellar test) findings, current diagnoses (right knee patellofemoral arthralgia with Baker's cyst and osteoarthritis, lumbar spine sprain/strain with right lower extremity radiculitis, and left sacroiliac joint sprain), and treatment to date (medications (including Tylenol, Norco, and Sonata), aquatic therapy, and steroid injections). There is no documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment and short-term use (4-12 weeks); and failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Voltaren Gel: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs) Page(s): 111-112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Diclofenac sodium.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist) and short-term use (4-12 weeks), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Voltaren Gel. ODG identifies documentation of failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of Voltaren Gel. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of right knee patellofemoral arthralgia with Baker's cyst and osteoarthritis, lumbar spine sprain/strain with right lower extremity radiculitis, and left sacroiliac joint sprain. However, there is no documentation of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist) and short-term use (4-12 weeks). In addition, there is no documentation of failure of an oral NSAID or contraindications to oral NSAIDs. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Voltaren Gel is not medically necessary.