

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0079885		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/18/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/06/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/26/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/02/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/30/2014

### 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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain 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 patient with a date of injury of November 6, 2012. A utilization review determination dated May 2, 2014 recommends noncertification of Voltaren gel. A progress report dated March 4, 2014 identifies subjective complaints of ongoing right shoulder pain with slow progress with physical therapy. The patient continues to have weakness and numbness in the right hand. Physical examination findings reveal restricted range of motion in the right shoulder and weakness in all planes. Diagnoses include right upper extremity injury status post right shoulder arthroscopy. The treatment plan recommends continuing with physical therapy. The note goes on to state that the patient takes ibuprofen in the past and also continues "to have difficulty with this as far as G.I. issues go. I have also given him a topical Voltaren gel to use in conjunction with the anti-inflammatory medication."

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Voltaren Gel 1% #5, 4 Grams:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111-112.

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for Voltaren gel, guidelines state that topical NSAIDs are recommended for short-term use. Oral NSAIDs contain significantly more guideline support, provided there are no contraindications to the use of oral NSAIDs. Within the documentation available for review, there's no indication that the patient has obtained any specific analgesic effect (in terms of percent reduction in pain, or reduced NRS) or specific objective functional improvement from the use of Voltaren gel. Additionally, there is no documentation that the patient would be unable to tolerate oral NSAIDs (although there is documentation of "GI issues"), which would be preferred, or that the voltaren is for short term use, as recommended by guidelines. In the absence of clarity regarding those issues, the currently requested Voltaren gel is not medically necessary.