

Case Number:	CM14-0083171		
Date Assigned:	07/21/2014	Date of Injury:	01/19/2000
Decision Date:	08/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/04/2014

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 and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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 injured worker is a 53-year-old female who was reportedly injured on January 19, 2000. The mechanism of injury was noted as opening a door. The most recent progress note dated March 28, 2014, indicated that there were ongoing complaints of neck and right upper extremity pains. The physical examination demonstrated a 5'9, 180 pound individual in no apparent distress. The cervical spine range of motion was noted to be decreased. There was also pain with motion, and a positive Spurling's test was reported. Diagnostic imaging studies were not reviewed. Previous treatment included injection therapy, nerve blocks, multiple medications and pain management interventions. A request was made for multiple topical preparations and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on May 21, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ketoprofen 1 gm, Cyclobenzaprine 1 gm, Base 8 gm: 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 Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The most recent progress note indicates the ongoing pain. There was a request for additional transforaminal epidural steroid injections (which were completed). However, there was no notation of the efficacy or utility of the topical preparations. As noted in the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, topical analgesics are largely experimental and the success of utilization of these preparations is to be reported. Based on the progress notes presented for review, and noting the date of injury, the ongoing complaints of pain, the unchanging physical examination, and the lack of any increased functionality or pain control, there is no necessity established the ongoing use of this preparation.

Flurbiprofen 1 gm, Capsacian .25 mg., Menthol 1.05 mg., Base 8/876 gm: 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 Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The most recent progress note indicated the ongoing pain. There was a request for additional transforaminal epidural steroid injections (which were completed). However, there is no notation of the efficacy or utility of the topical preparations. As noted in the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, topical analgesics are largely experimental, and the success of utilization of these preparations is to be reported. Based on the progress notes presented for review, and noting the date of injury, the ongoing complaints of pain, the unchanging physical examination, and the lack of any increased functionality or pain control, there is no necessity established the ongoing uses preparation.