

Case Number:	CM14-0085420		
Date Assigned:	07/23/2014	Date of Injury:	01/29/2013
Decision Date:	09/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/09/2014

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 records presented for review, indicate that this 45-year-old female was reportedly injured on January 29, 2013. The mechanism of injury was listed as driving a forklift. The most recent progress note, dated April 16, 2014, indicated that there were ongoing complaints of cervical spine pain radiating to the left shoulder and the left hand. Current medications include Tramadol and Ibuprofen. The physical examination demonstrated demonstrated tenderness at the left trapezius and left shoulder as well as the left lateral epicondyle and first dorsal compartment of the left thumb. There was a painful arc of motion of the left shoulder and a positive impingement sign. Diagnostic imaging studies of the left shoulder were stated to be normal. Nerve conduction studies revealed a suggestion of the left C5 and C6 radiculopathy. Previous treatment was not discussed. A request had been made for compounded Capsaicin 0.025%, Flurbiprofen 15%, Tramadol 15%, Menthol 2%, Camphor 2% and Diclofenac 20% with Tramadol and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on May 17, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound medications capsaicin 0.025%, Flurbiprofen 15%, Tramadol 15%, Menthol 2%, Camphor 2% for the cervical spine, left shoulder and left wrist.: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 Page(s): 111-113 of 127.

Decision rationale: According to the California Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, the only topical analgesic medications indicated for usage include anti-inflammatories, lidocaine, and capsaicin. There is no known efficacy of any other topical agents. Per the MTUS, when one component of a product is not necessary, the entire product is not medically necessary. Considering this, the request for a compound of Capsaicin 0.025%, Flurbiprofen 15%, Tramadol 15%, Menthol 2%, and Camphor 2% is not medically necessary.

Compound medications Diclofenac 20% with Tramadol: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 Page(s): 111-113 of 127.

Decision rationale: According to the California Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, the only topical analgesic medications indicated for usage include anti-inflammatories, lidocaine, and capsaicin. There is no known efficacy of any other topical agents. Per the MTUS, when one component of a product is not necessary, the entire product is not medically necessary. Considering this, the request for a compound of Diclofenac and Tramadol is not medically necessary.