

Case Number:	CM14-0096584		
Date Assigned:	09/15/2014	Date of Injury:	01/25/2011
Decision Date:	11/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/24/2014

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 General Preventive Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Indiana. 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 employee is a 61 year old female with date of injury of 1/25/2011. A review of the medical records indicate that the patient is undergoing treatment for lumbar strain and sprain. Subjective complaints include continued pain in her lower back with radiation down her legs. Objective findings include limited range of motion of the lumbar spine with tenderness to palpation of the paraspinals; positive straight leg raise bilaterally. Treatment has included physical therapy, chiropractic manipulations, acupuncture, Naproxyn, Tramadol, Flexeril, and a compound topical cream containing Flurbiprofen 20%/Tramadol 20%. The utilization review dated 5/23/2014 non-certified a compound topical cream containing Flurbiprofen 20%/Tramadol 20%.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flurbiprofen 20%/Tramadol 20% 210gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Compound creams

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG recommend usage of topical analgesics as an option, but also further details "primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed." The medical documents do not indicate failure of antidepressants or anticonvulsants. MTUS states, "There is little to no research to support the use of many of these agents. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." MTUS states that the only FDA- approved NSAID medication for topical use includes diclofenac, which is indicated for relief of osteoarthritis pain in joints. Flurbiprofen would not be indicated for topical use in this case. Therefore, the request for a compound cream containing Flurbiprofen 20%/Tramadol 20% 210gm is not medically necessary.