

Case Number:	CM14-0182452		
Date Assigned:	11/07/2014	Date of Injury:	08/27/2014
Decision Date:	01/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/03/2014

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:

The applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for low back pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of August 27, 2014. In a Utilization Review Report dated October 14, 2014, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for several topical compounded drugs. Despite the fact that the MTUS addressed the topic, the claims administrator nevertheless invoked non-MTUS ODG Chronic Pain Guidelines, although this does not appear to be a chronic pain case as of the date of the request. The claims administrator stated that its decision was based on a September 30, 2014 RFA form. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On September 30, 2014, the applicant apparently transferred care to a new primary treating provider (PTP). The applicant presented with shoulder, neck, and low back pain. The applicant was returned to regular duty work. Unspecified medications, topical compounds, 15 sessions of physical therapy, and regular duty work were endorsed, along with a lumbar support.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flubiprofen 10 percent Capsacin 0.025 percent Menthol 2 percent Camphor 1 percent:
Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 47 and 49.

Decision rationale: As noted in the MTUS-adopted ACOEM Guidelines in Chapter 3, Table 3-1, page 49, topical medications such as the Flurbiprofen-containing compound at issue are deemed "not recommended." In this case, furthermore, it has not been outlined why what ACOEM Chapter 3, page 47 deems first-line oral pharmaceuticals cannot be employed here. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

Ketoprofen/Cyclobenzaprine/Lidocaine 10 percent, 3 percent, 5 percent: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Topical analgesics

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 47 and 49.

Decision rationale: As noted in the MTUS-adopted ACOEM Guidelines in Chapter 3, Table 3-1, page 49, topical analgesics and topical compounds such as the Ketoprofen-containing compounds at issue are deemed "not recommended." In this case, it is further noted that the attending provider has not outlined any evidence of intolerance to and/or failure of what ACOEM Chapter 3, page 47 deems first-line oral pharmaceuticals so as to justify selection and/or introduction of the Ketoprofen-containing compound at issue. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.