

Case Number:	CM14-0184653		
Date Assigned:	11/12/2014	Date of Injury:	01/14/2014
Decision Date:	01/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/05/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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 patient is a 60 year old injured worker who sustained a work-related injury on January 14 2014. The patient was treated with physical therapy and pain medications. Subsequently, the patient developed a chronic right shoulder pain for which the patient underwent surgery. According to a progress report dated on January 22 2014, the patient was complaining of ongoing back and right shoulder pain. The patient physical examination demonstrated cervical tenderness with reduced range of motion. The provider requested authorization for a topical analgesic.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flurbiprofen 25 % lidocaine 5 % cream: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other

pain medications for pain control. That is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. There is no documentation that all component of the prescribed topical analgesic is effective for the treatment of neck and back pain. Therefore, Flurbiprofen 25 % lidocaine 5 % cream is not medically necessary.