

Case Number:	CM14-0185437		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2014	Date of Injury:	01/13/2010
Decision Date:	01/14/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/28/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/06/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in Georgia. 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 59-year-old female presenting with a work-related injury on January 13, 2000. On October 16, 2014 the patient complained of cervical spine and right shoulder pain. The physical exam was significant for decreased range of motion of the cervical spine with, the spasms; the lumbar spine exam revealed negative straight leg raise; right shoulder exam revealed positive impingement. The patient was diagnosed with cervical spine herniated nucleus pulposus, lumbar spine and right shoulder impingement. A claim was made for topical analgesic cream.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Topical compound Flurbiprofen/Capsaicin/Camphor 10/0.025%/2%/1% 120 grams:
Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111 and 112.

Decision rationale: Topical compound Flurbiprofen/Capsaicin/Camphor 10/0.025%/2%/1% 120 grams is not medically necessary. According to California MTUS, 2009, chronic pain, page 111 California MTUS guidelines does not cover "topical analgesics that are largely experimental in

use with a few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended". Per CA MTUS, topical analgesics such as Flurbiprofen, is indicated for Osteoarthritis and tendinitis, in particular, that of the knee and elbow or other joints that are amenable to topical treatment. It is also recommended for short-term use (4-12 weeks). Additionally, Per CA MTUS page 111 states that topical analgesics are " recommended for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (anti-depressants or AED)...Only FDA-approved products are currently recommended. Non-neuropathic pain: Not recommended; therefore, the compounded mixture is not medically necessary.

Ketoprofen/Cyclobenzaprine/Lidocaine 10%/3%/5% 120 grams: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111 and 112.

Decision rationale: Ketoprofen/Cyclobenzaprine/Lidocaine 10%/3%/5% 120 grams is not medically necessary. According to California MTUS, 2009, chronic pain, page 111 California MTUS guidelines does not cover "topical analgesics that are largely experimental in use with a few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended". Per CA MTUS, topical analgesics such as Ketoprofen, is indicated for Osteoarthritis and tendinitis, in particular, that of the knee and elbow or other joints that are amenable to topical treatment. It is also recommended for short-term use (4-12 weeks). Additionally, Per CA MTUS page 111 states that topical analgesics are " recommended for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (anti-depressants or AED)...Only FDA-approved products are currently recommended. Non-neuropathic pain: Not recommended; therefore, the compounded mixture is not medically necessary.