

Case Number:	CM14-0187898		
Date Assigned:	11/18/2014	Date of Injury:	04/07/2014
Decision Date:	01/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/11/2014

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:

This individual is a 46 male who suffered a significant hand wound on 4/7/14 from a skill saw injury. He had significant injuries and fractures to his left 3rd and 4th digits and surgery was performed. He has been developed persistent postoperative pain that affects his ability to grasp and the pain has a neuropathic "shocking" quality to it.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flurbiprofen Topical Cream, 30 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): 111-113.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines are very specific regarding the recommended use of topical analgesics. If a medication is not FDA approved for topical use it is not recommended by Guidelines. Flurbiprofen does not have FDA approval for topical use with chronic pain. There are other topical alternatives that do have FDA approval. There are no unusual circumstances to justify an exception to Guidelines. The Flurbiprofen Topical Cream 30 grams are not medically necessary.

Flurbiprofen Topical Cream, 60 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): 111-112.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines are very specific regarding the recommended use of topical analgesics. If a medication is not FDA approved for topical use it is not recommended by Guidelines. Flurbiprofen does not have FDA approval for topical use with chronic pain. There are other topical alternatives that do have FDA approval. There are no unusual circumstances to justify an exception to Guidelines. The Flurbiprofen topical cream 60 grams is not medically necessary.

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Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines are very specific regarding the recommended use of topical analgesics. If a medication is not FDA approved for topical use it is not recommended by Guidelines. Flurbiprofen does not have FDA approval for topical use with chronic pain. There are other topical alternatives that do have FDA approval. There are no unusual circumstances to justify an exception to Guidelines. The Flurbiprofen topical cream 30 grams is not medically necessary.

Flurbiprofen Topical Cream, 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): 111-113.

Decision rationale: MTUS Guidelines are very specific regarding the recommended use of topical analgesics. If a medication is not FDA approved for topical use it is not recommended by Guidelines. Flurbiprofen does not have FDA approval for topical use with chronic pain. There are other topical alternatives that do have FDA approval. There are no unusual circumstances to justify an exception to Guidelines. The Flurbiprofen topical cream 120 grams is not medically necessary.