

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0188409		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/19/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/28/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/07/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/03/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/12/2014

### 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 Family 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:

Patient had a date of injury on 9/28/2012. Patient was lifting and injured his lower back and bilateral knees. Patient has had physical therapy, acupuncture, spinal injection and a cortisone injection to the knee. Patient is on Norco and Omeprazole.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Cyclobenzaprine 2% Gabapentin 15% Amitriptyline 10% 180gm:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

**Decision rationale:** According to guidelines topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. 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. According to medical records Gabapentin is not recommended and thus not medically necessary.