

Case Number:	CM15-0007558		
Date Assigned:	01/26/2015	Date of Injury:	08/14/2013
Decision Date:	03/17/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/13/2015

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:
State(s) of Licensure: California, Indiana, New York
Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine

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 59 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 8/14/13. He subsequently reports chronic back pain. Diagnoses include cervical stenosis and cervical radiculopathy. The injured worker has undergone spinal surgery. Prior treatments include physical therapy. The compounded prescription request was made 9/17/14. The UR decision dated 12/24/14 non-certified 1. Compound Cream: Diclo 3%; Baclo 2%; Bupi 1%; Gaba 6%; Pentox 3% Ibu 3%, Mineral Oil 240 Grams. The 1. Compound Cream: Diclo 3%; Baclo 2%; Bupi 1%; Gaba 6%; Pentox 3% Ibu 3%, Mineral Oil 240 Grams was denied based on MTUS : Topical Analgesics, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDS), Lidocaine, Capsaicin, Baclofen, Gabapentin and Ketamine guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound Cream: Diclo3%, Baclo2%, Bupi1%, Gaba6%, Pentox3%, Ibu3%, mineral oil 240grams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics, Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAID'.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical analgesics Page(s): 111-113. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Pain section, Topical analgesics

Decision rationale: Pursuant to the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the Official Disability Guidelines, compound cream Diclofenac 3%, Baclofen 2%, Bupivacaine 1%, Gabapentin 6%, Pentoxifylline 3%, Ibuprofen 3% in mineral oil #240 g. Topical analgesics are largely experimental with few controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. They are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. Topical baclofen is not recommended. Topical gabapentin is not recommended. In this case, the injured worker's working diagnoses are lumbar radiculopathy; myalgia and myositis; spasms of muscle; and spinal enthesopathy. Subjectively, the injured worker complains of neck pain. He is status post cervical fusion December 2013 in January 2014. Objectively, there is moderate tenderness over the bilateral lower lumbar paraspinal muscles. Range of motion is decreased slightly. Medications are not documented. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (topical baclofen and topical gabapentin) that is not recommended is not recommended. Consequently, compound cream Diclofenac 3%, Baclofen 2%, Bupivacaine 1%, Gabapentin 6%, Pentoxifylline 3%, Ibuprofen 3% in mineral oil is not recommended. Based on clinical information in the medical record and the peer-reviewed evidence-based guidelines, compound cream Diclofenac 3%, Baclofen 2%, Bupivacaine 1%, Gabapentin 6%, Pentoxifylline 3%, Ibuprofen 3% in mineral oil #240 g is not medically necessary.