

Case Number:	CM15-0161422		
Date Assigned:	08/27/2015	Date of Injury:	06/09/2015
Decision Date:	10/02/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/28/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/17/2015

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: Texas, New York, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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:

The applicant is a represented [REDACTED] beneficiary who has filed a claim for hand pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of June 9, 2015. In a Utilization Review report dated July 20, 2015, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for topical compounded medication. An RFA form received on July 21, 2015 was referenced in the determination. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On July 6, 2015, the applicant reported ongoing complaints of hand, wrist, and arm pain with derivative complaints of psychological stress. The applicant had undergone surgical repair of the laceration on June 9, 2015, the treating provider contented. The Tramadol, Motrin, Protonix and a topical compounded agent were endorsed. The applicant was given work restrictions, which the treating provider suggested the applicant's employer was unable to accommodate.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound topical meds: Gabapentin 15%, Amitriptyline 4%, Dextromethorhan 10% 180gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 49.

Decision rationale: No, the request for a gabapentin-amitriptyline-dextromethorphan containing topical compound was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. As noted in the MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 3, Table 3-1, page 49, topical medications such as a Gabapentin-containing compound in question are deemed not recommended. The applicant's concomitant usage of numerous first line oral pharmaceuticals to include Tramadol and Motrin, moreover, effectively obviated the need for the topical compounded agent in question. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.

Compound topical meds: Cyclobenzaprine 5%, Flurbiprofen 20%, Hyaluronic acid 0.1% 180gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 49; 47.

Decision rationale: Similarly, the request for a cyclobenzaprine-flurbiprofen-hyaluronic acid containing compound was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. As noted in the MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 3, Table 3-1 page 49, topical medications such as a compound in question are deemed not recommended. The applicant's concomitant usage of what the MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 3, page 47 deems first-line oral pharmaceuticals such as Motrin and Tramadol, moreover, effectively obviated the need for the topical agent in question. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.