

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0202504		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/19/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/25/1992
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/03/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/16/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/14/2015

### 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

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 injured worker is a 73 year old male with an industrial injury dated 02-25-1992. A review of the medical records indicates that the injured worker is undergoing treatment for chronic lumbar back pain with multilevel disc disease not amenable to surgery, chronic left foot pain with left heel pain status post-surgery x2 and sleep disturbance. According to the progress note dated 08-21-2015, the injured worker reported pain in his neck, upper and lower back, bilateral arms, bilateral knees, bilateral ankles and feet. The injured worker reported that ten days prior to visit, he fell down and lose his balance due to sharp pain in his lower back. Objective findings (07-23-2015, 08-21-2015) revealed assistance of walking cane, paracervical tenderness from C2- to C7-T1, parathoracic tenderness from T1 to T12-L1, paralumbar tenderness from L1 to L5-S1, lower thoracic and lumbar spasms, bilateral sacroiliac (SI) and trochanteric tenderness, bilateral knee tenderness and bilateral calcaneal tenderness. Treatment has included diagnostic studies, prescribed medications, and periodic follow up visits. The treatment plan included medication management. The treating physician prescribed Capsaicin cream 0.025% #60 with 3 refills. Medical records did not indicate how long the injured worker has been on Capsaicin cream. The utilization review dated 09-16-2015, non-certified the request for Capsaicin cream 0.025% #60 with 3 refills.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Capsaicin cream 0.025% #60 with 3 refills: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), Topical Analgesics.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Topical Analgesics, Capsaicin, topical.

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS Guidelines recommend the use of topical analgesics as an option for the treatment of chronic pain, however, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. Topical capsaicin is recommended by the MTUS Guidelines only as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments. There are positive randomized studies with capsaicin cream in patients with osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and chronic non-specific back pain. In this case, there is no evidence that the injured worker has not responded to or is intolerant of other treatments. Additionally, it is unclear why there is a request for the number #60 regarding a cream, therefore, the request for Capsaicin cream 0.025% #60 with 3 refills is not medically necessary.