

Case Number:	CM15-0027140		
Date Assigned:	02/19/2015	Date of Injury:	11/11/2012
Decision Date:	03/30/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/02/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/12/2015

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: North Carolina
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 37 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 11/11/12 involving his neck, mid and low back. Currently he is experiencing improvement with neck, mid and low back pain and numbness. Pain Intensity was 3/10. Medications include Percocet, Tramadol, omeprazole, trazadone, cyclobenzaprine and compounded medications. His medications help to decrease pain and increase function. Diagnoses include lumbar disc herniation L5-S1; facet arthritis of lumbar region: L4-5 bilaterally; low back pain; lumbar radiculitis; lumbar degenerative disc disease; thoracic back pain; neck pain; thoracic and cervical disc pain. Treatments to date include H-wave therapy, home exercises, physical therapy, injections and medications. Diagnostics include MRI of the cervical and lumbar spine (8/26/13); x-rays of the cervical lumbar and thoracic spines (8/26/13); computed tomography of the lumbar spine (8/26/13). In progress notes dated 1/6/15 and 2/3/15 the treating provider indicates that the injured worker is able to decrease his Percocet because of compounded medication use. The compounded medications were requested again to decrease neuropathic pain. On 2/2/15 Utilization Review non-certified the request for bupivacaine/ diclofenac/ DMD)/ doxepin/ gabapentin/ pentoxifylline 120 Grams Quantity 2 citing MTUS: Chronic Pain Medical treatment Guidelines: Topical Analgesics.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bupivacaine/Diclofenac/DMSO/Doxepin/Gabapentin/Orphenadrine/Pentoxifylline 120
Gram Qty 2: 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: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on topical analgesics states: Recommended as an option as indicated below. 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. (Namaka, 2004) These agents are applied locally to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. (Colombo, 2006) Many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control (including NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants, glutamate receptor antagonists, -adrenergic receptor agonist, adenosine, cannabinoids, cholinergic receptor agonists, agonists, prostanoids, bradykinin, adenosine triphosphate, biogenic amines, and nerve growth factor). (Argoff, 2006) 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. The requested medication contains multiple ingredients, which are not indicated per the California MTUS for topical analgesic use. Therefore the request is not certified.