

Case Number:	CM15-0043003		
Date Assigned:	03/13/2015	Date of Injury:	08/25/2004
Decision Date:	04/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/20/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/06/2015

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: Indiana

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 43 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on August 25, 2004. She reported left ankle pain. Diagnoses have included severe degenerative joint disease of the foot, and mild degenerative changes of the left foot. Treatment to date has included medications, physical therapy, acupuncture, cold laser therapy, ankle fracture, casting, injections, fusion surgery, and imaging studies. A progress note dated July 24, 2013 indicates a chief complaint of left ankle and foot pain. The treating physician documented a plan of care that included removal of screws, new computed tomography following the procedure, and selective injections.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective: Flurbiprofen 20% 150gm/Gabepentin 10% 120gm/Cyclobenzaprine 10%/Tramadol 20% 15gm cream (Dispensed: 7/29/2013): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Page(s): 111-113. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain, Compound creams.

Decision rationale: MTUS and ODG recommends usage of topical analgesics as an option, but also further details "primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed." The medical documents do not indicate failure of antidepressants or anticonvulsants. MTUS states, "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." MTUS states that the only FDA- approved NSAID medication for topical use includes diclofenac, which is indicated for relief of osteoarthritis pain in joints. Flurbiprofen would not be indicated for topical use in this case. Therefore, the request for Retrospective: Flurbiprofen 20% 150gm/Gabepentin 10% 120gm/Cyclobenzaprine 10%/Tramadol 20% 15gm cream is not medically necessary.