

Case Number:	CM15-0050825		
Date Assigned:	03/24/2015	Date of Injury:	05/17/2013
Decision Date:	05/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/17/2015

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: 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 44 year old woman sustained an industrial injury on 5/17/2013. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Diagnoses include lumbar spine sprain/strain and axil lower back pain rule out facet arthropathy. Treatment has included oral medications. Physician notes on a PR-2 dated 9/22/2014 show complaints of lumbosacral pain with radiation to the right buttock and thigh rated 6/10. Recommendations include pain management and two compounded topical medicated applications.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request for Amitrip/Gaba/Panth dispensed on 11/7/14: 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 analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: Pursuant to the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the Official Disability Guidelines, topical amitriptyline, gabapentin and Pent is not medically necessary. Topical analgesics are largely experimental with few controlled trials to determine efficacy and 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 gabapentin is not recommended. In this case, the injured worker's working diagnoses her lumbar spine strain/sprain; axial low back pain, lower facet arthropathy at L4 - L5 and L5 - S1 bilaterally. Gabapentin topical is not recommended. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (gabapentin) that is not recommended is not recommended. Consequently, topical amitriptyline, gabapentin and Pent is not recommended. Based on the clinical information in the medical record and the peer-reviewed evidence-based guidelines, topical amitriptyline, gabapentin and Pent is not medically necessary.

Baclo/Dexam/Flurb/Panth dispensed on 11/7/14: 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 analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: Pursuant to the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the Official Disability Guidelines, topical baclofen, dexamethasone, Flurbiprofen and Pent is not medically necessary. Topical analgesics are largely experimental with few controlled trials to determine efficacy and 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 medically necessary. Flurbiprofen is not FDA approved for topical use. In this case, the injured worker's working diagnoses her lumbar spine strain/sprain; axial low back pain, lower facet arthropathy at L4 - L5 and L5 - S1 bilaterally. Baclofen topical is not recommended. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (baclofen and Flurbiprofen) that is not recommended is not recommended. Consequently, topical baclofen, dexamethasone, Flurbiprofen and Pent is not recommended. Based on the clinical information in the medical record and the peer-reviewed evidence-based guidelines, topical baclofen, dexamethasone, Flurbiprofen and Pent is not medically necessary.

Baclo/Camph/Caps/Dexam/Path/Flurb/Menth dispensed on 11/7/14: 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 analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: Pursuant to the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the Official Disability Guidelines, topical baclofen, camphor, Capsaicin, dexamethasone, Path, Flurbiprofen

and menthol is not medically necessary. Topical analgesics are largely experimental with few controlled trials to determine efficacy and 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 medically necessary. Flurbiprofen is not FDA approved for topical use. In this case, the injured worker's working diagnoses her lumbar spine strain/sprain; axial low back pain, lower facet arthropathy at L4 - L5 and L5 - S1 bilaterally. Baclofen topical is not recommended. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (baclofen and Flurbiprofen) that is not recommended is not recommended. Consequently, topical baclofen, camphor, Capsaicin, dexamethasone, Path, Flurbiprofen and menthol is not recommended. Based on the physical information in the medical record and the peer-reviewed evidence-based guidelines, topical baclofen, camphor, Capsaicin, dexamethasone, Path, Flurbiprofen and menthol is not recommended.