

Case Number:	CM15-0057699		
Date Assigned:	04/02/2015	Date of Injury:	10/25/2013
Decision Date:	05/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/10/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/26/2015

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: New Jersey, Michigan, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 54 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on October 25, 2013. She has reported back pain and leg pain. Diagnoses have included lumbar spine disc displacement, lumbosacral strain/sprain, lumbosacral spondylosis, right lumbar radiculopathy, and lumbar facet syndrome. Treatment to date has included percutaneous lumbar shunt, transforaminal epidural steroid injection, chiropractic care, and medications. A progress note dated February 13, 2015 indicates a chief complaint of pain down the leg to the feet. The treating physician requested medications.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 container of capsaicin power 95%, mediderm cream, camphor cry synthetic, tramadol hcl powder, cyclobenzaprine powder hydrochloride, and menthol cry: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 111-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. That is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. The proposed topical analgesic contains capsaicin a topical analgesic not recommended by MTUS. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. Based on the above, 1 container of capsaicin power 95%, mediderm cream, camphor cry synthetic, tramadol hcl powder, cyclobenzaprine powder hydrochloride, and menthol cry is not medically necessary.