

Case Number:	CM15-0059622		
Date Assigned:	04/06/2015	Date of Injury:	01/26/2001
Decision Date:	05/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/26/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/30/2015

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: Arizona, California
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:

This 58 year old female sustained an industrial injury on 1/26/01. She subsequently reported head, neck and forearm pain from cumulative trauma. Diagnoses include brachial neuritis. Diagnostic testing has included x-rays. Surgery has been recommended. The injured worker continues to experience head, neck and forearm pain. A request for Lyrica, Celebrex and Flector medications was made by the treating physician.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lyrica 150mg 1 BID #60: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Anti-epilepsy drugs.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Lyrica Page(s): 19.

Decision rationale: According to the guidelines, Lyrica is effective and approved for diabetic neuropathy and post-herpetic neuralgia. In this case, the claimant has neither diagnosis. The

claimant had been on Lyrica along with other analgesics (Celebrex). There is no indication for continued use and the Lyrica is not medically necessary.

Celebrex 200mg PRN #60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines NSAIDS Page(s): 67.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS guidelines, there appears to be no difference between traditional NSAIDs and COX-2 NSAIDs in terms of pain relief. Celebrex is a COX 2 inhibitor indicated for those with high risk for GI bleed. In this case, there was no indication of GI risk factors or evidence of failure on an NSAID or Tylenol. The Celebrex is not medically necessary.

Flector patch BID: 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): 111-112.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS guidelines, topical analgesics are recommended as an option as indicated below. They are 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. Flector contains a topical NSAID. There is little evidence to utilize topical NSAIDs for treatment of osteoarthritis of the spine, hip or shoulder. Topical NSAIDs have been shown in meta-analysis to be superior to placebo during the first 2 weeks of treatment for osteoarthritis, but either not afterward, or with a diminishing effect over another 2-week period. In this case, the claimant does not have a diagnosis of arthritis. There is limited evidence to support long-term use of Flector. There was no indication for combining topical and oral NSAIDS since topical can reach similar systemic levels. The Flector patch is not medically necessary.