

Case Number:	CM15-0088426		
Date Assigned:	05/12/2015	Date of Injury:	07/24/2002
Decision Date:	06/15/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/08/2015

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: Texas, 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 is a 49 year old male patient, who sustained an industrial injury on 7/24/02. The diagnoses have included knee medial meniscus tear; chondromalacia; joint pain, left leg; effusion of knee joint and knee degenerative osteoarthritis. Per the doctor's note dated 4/16/15 his left knee feels good and it feels normal and he has been running on it and that it is sore sometimes. The physical examination revealed left knee - no longer tender to palpation; range of motion 0 to 140 degrees and positive Patellar grind test. The medications list includes prilosec and vicodin. He has had magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the left lower extremity on 10/3/14 and left knee on 10/9/14, which revealed moderate narrowing medial joint spaces. He has had visco-supplementation injections. The request was for ketoprofen 20% topical cream to help decrease pain and inflammation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ketoprofen 20% topical cream: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: Request: Ketoprofen 20% topical cream. Ketoprofen is an NSAID. The Cited Guidelines regarding topical analgesics state, "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. Many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control (including NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants). (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. Topical NSAIDs: There is little evidence to utilize topical NSAIDs for treatment of osteoarthritis of the spine, hip or shoulder. Neuropathic pain: Not recommended as there is no evidence to support use. Ketoprofen: This agent is not currently FDA approved for a topical application. It has an extremely high incidence of photo contact dermatitis." The cited guidelines recommend topical analgesics for neuropathic pain only when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed to relieve symptoms. Failure of antidepressants and anticonvulsants for this injury is not specified in the records provided. Intolerance to oral medication is not specified in the records provided. Ketoprofen is not recommended by MTUS for topical use as cited above because of the absence of high grade scientific evidence to support their effectiveness. The Ketoprofen 20% topical cream is not medically necessary for this patient.