

Case Number:	CM14-0127187		
Date Assigned:	08/13/2014	Date of Injury:	03/22/2006
Decision Date:	10/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/11/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 53-year-old male with a 3/22/06 date of injury. At the time (6/27/14) of request for authorization for Cyclobenzaprine 5% Cream 100 gm, there is documentation of subjective (moderate to severe low back pain associated with numbness and tingling of the bilateral lower extremities) and objective (tenderness over the lumbar paraspinal muscles and spinous processes from L1-L5, decreased range of motion, decreased sensation and motor strength in the bilateral lower extremities, and positive straight leg raising test) findings, current diagnoses (low back pain, lumbar spine disc displacement, and lumbar radiculopathy), and treatment to date (medications and physical therapy).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cyclobenzaprine 5% Cream 100 gm: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Chronic Pain, Topical Analgesics (Fluriprofen Cyclobenzepine) Pag.

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

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that any

compounded medications containing ketoprofen, lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, baclofen and other muscle relaxants, and gabapentin and other antiepilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of low back pain, lumbar spine disc displacement, and lumbar radiculopathy. However, Cyclobenzaprine 5% Cream 100 gm contains at least one component (Cyclobenzaprine) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Cyclobenzaprine 5% Cream 100 gm is not medically necessary.