

Case Number:	CM14-0138317		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	02/26/2003
Decision Date:	10/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/26/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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 documents available for review, the patient is a 51 year old female. The date of injury is February 28, 2003. The patient sustained an injury to the right thumb, small finger, shoulder and neck. The mechanism of injury occurred when during a fall from a collapsed chair she jammed her hand on the table in an attempt to catch herself. The patient currently complains of pain in the right-hand shoulder and neck. The patient is maintained on the multimodal pain medication regimen including Voltaren gel. A request for Voltaren gel was denied.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Voltaren 1% Gel 4gm.To the Affected Area 3 Times daily, not to Exceed 32gms/ day:
Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (Chronic), Voltaren gel.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS ,Voltaren Gel 1% (diclofenac): Indicated for relief of osteoarthritis pain in joints that lend themselves to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand,

knee, and wrist). It has not been evaluated for treatment of the spine, hip or shoulder. Maximum dose should not exceed 32 g perday (8 g per joint per day in the upper extremity and 16 g per joint per day in the lower extremity). The most common adverse reactions were dermatitis and pruritus. (Voltaren package insert) For additional adverse effects: See NSAIDs, GI symptoms and cardiovascular risk; & NSAIDs, hypertension and renal function. Additionally, accordingly to the ODG, Voltaren gel is not recommended as a first-line treatment. Voltaren Gel is recommended for osteoarthritis after failure of an oral NSAID, or contraindications to oral NSAIDs, or for patients who cannot swallow solid oral dosage forms, and after considering the increased risk profile with diclofenac, including topical formulations. According to the documents available for review, there is no indication that the patient has had a failure of an oral NSAIDs, a contraindication to oral NSAIDS or cannot swallow solid oral dosage forms. Therefore, at this time, the requirements for treatment have not been met and medical necessity has not been established.