

Case Number:	CM14-0164441		
Date Assigned:	10/09/2014	Date of Injury:	04/04/2014
Decision Date:	11/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/07/2014

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 Preventive 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 61-year-old male with a 4/4/14 date of injury, and right shoulder arthroscopic rotator cuff repair on 7/23/14. At the time (9/26/14) of request for authorization for Decision for Compound topical cream #1 Diclofenac 10%, Flurbiprofen 10%, Gabapentin 10%, Lidocaine, there is documentation of subjective (mild right shoulder pain) and objective (limited range of motion of the right shoulder, decreased sensation into the forearm and hand, and decrease strength) findings, current diagnoses (status post right shoulder arthroscopic rotator cuff repair), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Norco)).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound topical cream #1 Diclofenac 10%, Flurbiprofen 10%, Gabapentin 10%, Lidocaine: 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): 111-113.

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that 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 a diagnosis of status post right shoulder arthroscopic rotator cuff repair. However, the request for Compound topical cream #1 Diclofenac 10%, Flurbiprofen 10%, Gabapentin 10%, Lidocaine contains at least one drug (Gabapentin and Lidocaine) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Compound topical cream #1 Diclofenac 10%, Flurbiprofen 10%, Gabapentin 10%, Lidocaine is not medically necessary.