

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0113479		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/19/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/04/2006
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/04/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/04/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	06/12/2015

### 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: North Carolina  
 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:

The injured worker (IW) is a 65 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 04/04/2006. The mechanism of injury and initial report of injury are not found in the records reviewed. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbago. Treatment to date has included right total knee arthroplasty (10/2014). Currently (05/11/2015), the injured worker complains of right knee pain that is a 7/10, low back pain with right lower extremity symptoms that are a 5/10, and left knee pain that is a 5/10 scale of intensity. On examination there are no signs of infection. The right knee incision is well healed and the range of motion is 0-90. There is tenderness in the lumbar spine and decreased range of motion with pain. There is diminished sensation in the right L4, L5, and S1 dermatome distribution. Her current diagnoses include: Status post right total knee arthroplasty 10/31/2014; left knee osteoarthopathy; spondylolisthesis L5 on S1, Protrusion L5-S1 with neural encroachment and radiculopathy; and Left shoulder chronic impingement. The treatment plan includes continue with request for updated MRI lumbar spine, continue Tramadol, cyclobenzaprine, gabapentin and monitor. According to chart notes (04/13/2015), there is recall of a failed first and second line nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory options due to adverse gastrointestinal effects/non efficacious. A request for authorization is made for: Ketoprofen 10 %/gabapentin 6%/bupivacaine 5%/fluticasone 1%/baclofen 2%/cyclobenzaprine 2%/clonidine 0.2%/hyaluronic acid 0.2% 300 gm with 3 refills.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Ketoprofen 10 %/gabapentin 6%/bupivacaine 5%/fluticasone 1%/baclofen 2%/  
cyclobenzaprine 2%/clonidine 0.2%/hyaluronic acid 0.2% 300 gm with 3 refills: 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:** The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on topical analgesics states: Recommended as an option as indicated below. 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. (Namaka, 2004) These agents are applied locally to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. (Colombo, 2006) Many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control (including NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants, glutamate receptor antagonists, -adrenergic receptor agonist, adenosine, cannabinoids, cholinergic receptor agonists, agonists, prostanoids, bradykinin, adenosine triphosphate, biogenic amines, and nerve growth factor). (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. The requested medication contains ingredients (gabapentin) which are not indicated per the California MTUS for topical analgesic use. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.