

Case Number:	CM15-0127359		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2015	Date of Injury:	01/29/2009
Decision Date:	08/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/10/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/01/2015

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 is a 59 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on January 29, 2009. The injured worker was diagnosed as having neuropathic pain and status post left knee replacement with residual. Treatment to date has included surgery X2, manipulation, physical therapy and medication. A progress note dated May 27, 2015 provides the injured worker complains of left knee pain with swelling. He reports physical therapy has not been very helpful and that tramadol caused adverse side effects. He rates the pain 8-9/10 without medication, and 6/10 currently. Physical exam notes antalgic gait, left knee well healed surgical scar, tenderness on palpation, decreased range of motion (ROM), swelling and hyperpathia. The plan includes orthopedic consultation, Naproxen, omeprazole, Gabapentin and Dendracin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Dendracin Lotion 120 ml (Methyl Salicylate 30 gm in 60 ml, Menthol 10 gm in 60 ml, Capsaicin 0.025 gm in 60 ml): 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, pages 112-113.

Decision rationale: Per MTUS Chronic Pain Guidelines, the efficacy in clinical trials for topical analgesic treatment modality has been inconsistent and most studies are small and of short duration. These medications may be useful for chronic musculoskeletal pain, but there are no long-term studies of their effectiveness or safety. There is little evidence to utilize topical compound analgesic over oral NSAIDs which is also prescribed or other pain relievers for a patient with joint pain without contraindication in taking oral medications. Dendracin's ingredients are methyl salicylate, benzocaine, menthol, capsaicin, dimethyl sulfoxide, aloe vera gel, zingiber extract, borage oil, boswellia serrata, soyalecithin, PEG 100, stearic acid, propylene glycol, cetyl alcohol & Poloxamer 407 is a non-prescription strength topical analgesic with no proven greater efficacy than any other over-the-counter pain cream. Guidelines specifically noted that Boswellia Serrata Resin (Frankincense) is not recommended for chronic pain and as criteria note that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is therefore, not recommended. Boswellia serrata is not recommended and is also a component of Dendracin, thereby, the request for Dendracin Cream has not been established. Submitted reports have not adequately demonstrated the indication or medical need for this topical analgesic for this chronic injury of 2009 without documented functional improvement from treatment already rendered. The Dendracin Lotion 120 ml (Methyl Salicylate 30 gm in 60 ml, Menthol 10 gm in 60 ml, Capsaicin 0.025 gm in 60 ml) is not medically necessary and appropriate.