

Case Number:	CM15-0128598		
Date Assigned:	07/15/2015	Date of Injury:	09/08/2007
Decision Date:	08/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/02/2015

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 is a 62 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 9/08/2007. The injured worker was diagnosed as having strain/sprain of ankle, unspecified site, osteoarthritis, unspecified whether generalized or localized, pelvic region and thigh, lumbago, and cervicalgia. Treatment to date has included diagnostics, injections, lumbar spinal surgery, mental health treatment, acupuncture, physical therapy, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation unit, and medications. Currently (6/03/2015), the injured worker's complaints were not documented. Assessment noted lumbago, cervicalgia, and depression. Objective findings included tenderness to palpation on the midline cervical and lumbar spines, along with the right upper quadrant. She stopped Cymbalta due to side effects. Medication use included Norco, Losartan, and Flexeril. She was to follow up with internal medicine regarding right upper quadrant pain and hypertension. She was to repeat physical therapy due to low back pain and cervicalgia and undergo acupuncture for the low back. Her work status was not documented. Pain was not rated. She was prescribed topical compound medication.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound - Ketoprofen/Menthol/Capsaicin/Liquigel/PCCA V QTY: 120 with 1 refill:
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, which are not indicated per the California MTUS for topical analgesic use. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.