

Case Number:	CM15-0022363		
Date Assigned:	02/11/2015	Date of Injury:	04/19/2002
Decision Date:	04/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/28/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/05/2015

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: Internal Medicine

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 58 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 4/19/2002. On 2/5/15, the injured worker submitted an application for IMR for review of Topical compound cream gabapentin 10%, amitriptyline 5%, capsaicin 0.0025%. The treating provider has reported the injured worker complained of chronic upper, mid, and low back pain and stiffness with cramping in the right leg. There are also documented complaints of left shoulder spasms and frequent numbness in the right toes. The diagnoses have included lumbar disc displacement, pain in limb, right lumbar radiculopathy. Treatment to date has included medication and drug toxicology for medical management. On 1/28/15 Utilization Review non-certified Topical compound cream gabapentin 10%, amitriptyline 5%, capsaicin 0.0025%. The MTUS Guidelines were cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Topical compound cream gabapentin 10%, amitriptyline 5%, capsaicin 0.0025%: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page 111-113.

Decision rationale: Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines address topical analgesics. Topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. There is little to no research to support the use of many of these agents. Gabapentin is not recommended. There is no peer-reviewed literature to support use. There is no evidence for use of any other antiepilepsy drug as a topical product. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. Medical records indicate a history of chronic back pain. MTUS guidelines do not support the use of topical products containing Gabapentin. Per MTUS, any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. Therefore, the request for a topical analgesic containing Gabapentin is not supported by MTUS. Therefore, the request for a topical compound cream Gabapentin, Amitriptyline, Capsaicin is not medically necessary.