

Case Number:	CM15-0046441		
Date Assigned:	03/18/2015	Date of Injury:	10/18/1998
Decision Date:	04/23/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/26/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/11/2015

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: New Jersey, Michigan, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 47 year old male who sustained a work related injury on October 18, 1998, after falling off a tractor-trailer incurring lower back and neck injuries. He was diagnosed with lumbar discopathy with disc displacement and lumbar radiculopathy. He underwent cervical Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and a Computed Tomography (CT) of the lumbar spine. Treatment included pain medications, antidepressants, neuropathy medications, anti-inflammatory drugs, compound creams and therapy. She underwent a lumbar spinal fusion. Currently, the injured worker complained of persistent chronic pain. Authorization was requested for a retro prescription for Flurbiprofen, Menthol, Camphor, Capsaicin topical cream on January 5, 2015.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retro (DOS 1/5/15); Flurbiprofen 25, Menthol 10%, Camphor 3%, Capsaicin 0.0375% (15gm & 60gm topical cream): 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.

Decision rationale: The requested topical analgesic is formed by the combination of Capsaicin, Flurbiprofen, Tramadol, Menthol, Camphor. According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. That is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. The topical analgesic contains Capsaicin not recommended by MTUS as a topical analgesic. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. Therefore, the retro request for Flurbiprofen 25, Menthol 10%, Camphor 3%, Capsaicin 0.0375% (15gm & 60gm topical cream) is not medically necessary.