

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0065870		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/13/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/01/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/12/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/13/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/07/2015

### 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 50 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 07/01/2010. The initial complaints or symptoms included right elbow pain/injury. The initial diagnoses were not mentioned in the clinical notes. Treatment to date has included conservative care, medications, conservative therapies, right elbow and wrist surgeries, and injections. Currently, the injured worker complains of right shoulder pain radiating down the right arm. The diagnoses include chronic pain due to trauma, lateral epicondylitis, shoulder impingement syndrome, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, depressive disorder, and arthralgia of the shoulder. The treatment plan consisted of medications (Norco, compound pain cream with Ketamine, and Cymbalta).

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Compound pain creme w/Ketamine 10%:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

**Decision rationale:** 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. There 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 compound cream contains Ketamine, a topical analgesic not recommended by MTUS. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. Based on the above, Compound pain creme w/Ketamine 10% is not medically necessary.