

Case Number:	CM15-0076180		
Date Assigned:	04/27/2015	Date of Injury:	11/28/2007
Decision Date:	06/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/27/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/21/2015

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, Pain Management

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 52 female who sustained an industrial injury on 11/28/07. Initial complaints and diagnoses are not addressed. Treatments to date include lumbar spine surgery, aquatic therapy, acupuncture, physical therapy, chiropractic treatment, spinal cord stimulator, Functional Capacity Evaluation, and medications. Diagnostic studies include electrodiagnostic studies, and a MRI. Current complaints include a stiff antalgic gait. Current diagnoses include right lower extremity radiculopathy. In a progress note dated 12/12/14 the treating provider reports the plan of care as medication including Ultracet, Anaprox, Prilosec, and Norco, as well as Ambien and Neurontin. Also recommended was aquatic therapy. The requested treatments are Celebrex and LidoPro.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Celebrex 200mg #30: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs Page(s): 67-68.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines x 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 MTUS (Effective July 18, 2009) Page(s): 22 and 30 of 127.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for celecoxib (Celebrex), Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state that Celebrex may be considered if the patient has a risk of GI complications. Within the documentation available for review, the patient was previously utilizing Anaprox along with Prilosec to help with medication-induced gastritis. The Anaprox was able to help with pain relief and function as well as lower her use of Norco from 6 to 4 per day. These medications were subsequently denied. Given the efficacy of prior NSAID use and a history of gastritis secondary to nonselective NSAID use, a trial of Celebrex appears appropriate. In light of the above, the currently requested celecoxib (Celebrex) is medically necessary.

LidoPro topical analgesic ointment #121g: 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 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 MTUS (Effective July 18, 2009) Page(s): 111-113 of 127.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for LidoPro, CA MTUS states that topical compound medications require guideline support for all components of the compound in order for the compound to be approved. Topical NSAIDs are indicated for "Osteoarthritis and tendinitis, in particular, that of the knee and elbow or other joints that are amenable to topical treatment: Recommended for short-term use (4-12 weeks). There is little evidence to utilize topical NSAIDs for treatment of osteoarthritis of the spine, hip or shoulder. Neuropathic pain: Not recommended as there is no evidence to support use." Topical lidocaine is "Recommended for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as gabapentin or Lyrica)." Additionally, it is supported only as a dermal patch. Capsaicin is "Recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments." Within the documentation available for review, none of the abovementioned criteria have been documented. Furthermore, there is no clear rationale for the use of topical medications rather than the FDA-approved oral forms for this patient. Given all of the above, the requested LidoPro is not medically necessary.