

Case Number:	CM15-0097328		
Date Assigned:	05/28/2015	Date of Injury:	10/07/2014
Decision Date:	07/02/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/06/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/20/2015

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, Alabama,

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 38-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on October 7, 2014, incurring neck and back injuries driving a truck. Cervical Magnetic Resonance Imaging was unremarkable. He was diagnosed with cervicgia and thoracic spine strain. Treatment included muscle relaxants, anti-inflammatory drugs, physical therapy, topical analgesic gel, chiropractic sessions, and work restrictions. Currently, the injured worker complained of persistent cervical and thoracic pain and loss of sleep. Upon examination, range of motion was restricted of the cervical spine. The treatment plan that was requested for authorization included a prescription for Voltaren gel.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Voltaren gel 1% 100g #3 tubes: 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, Non-selective NSAIDS Page(s): 111, 107.

Decision rationale: Voltaren Gel (Diclofenac) is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). 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. Diclofenac is used for osteoarthritis pain of wrist, ankle and elbow and there is no strong evidence for its use for spine pain such as lumbar spine pain and Knee pain. Therefore, the request for Voltaren gel 1% 100 grms is not medically necessary.