

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/15/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	7/12/2013
Date of Injury:	1/21/2010
IMR Application Received:	8/6/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0008270

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **dendracin lotion 120ml is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/6/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 7/12/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 9/11/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **dendracin lotion 120ml is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and is licensed to practice in California. 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The patient is a 56-year-old male who reported a work-related injury on 01/21/2010 as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Subsequently, the patient presents for treatment of the following diagnoses: cervical syndrome with radiculopathy, right wrist hand sprain status post right carpal tunnel decompression, left wrist/hand sprain, lumbosacral syndrome with sciatica, status post right total hip replacement, left hip sprain, status post right knee arthroscopy, and left knee sprain. The clinical note dated 07/01/2013 reports the patient was seen for followup under the care of Dr. [REDACTED]. The provider documented the patient presented with left knee and low back pain. The provider documented the patient is wanting to defer surgical interventions at this point in his treatment; however, is requesting left knee Synvisc injections, as well as lumbar epidurals.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) Regarding the request for dendracin lotion 120ml:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines (May 2009), Capsaicin topical, which is part of the MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines California MTUS, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, Topical Analgesics, page 111, which is part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

Medical records submitted and reviewed documented upon physical exam of the employee, left greater than right lumbar spine tenderness and muscle guarding were evidenced. The employee had positive straight leg raise to the right. The employee had sensory deficit to the right L5 dermatome. The provider documented recommendation for referral for a lumbar epidural steroid injection. Prescriptions for Norco 10/325 and Dendracin topical were rendered. The clinical notes lacked evidence of the employee's specific reports of efficacy with the use of this medication, as well as a lack of documentation evidencing a rationale for the employee to utilize a topical analgesic. As Dendracin lotion is a compounded product consisting of capsaicin, salicylate, and menthol, the current request is not supported as California MTUS indicates, "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended."

The request for dendracin lotion 120ml is not medically necessary and appropriate.

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.