

Case Number:	CM13-0004945		
Date Assigned:	12/11/2013	Date of Injury:	02/26/2013
Decision Date:	02/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/23/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/31/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Preventative Medicine and Occupational Medicine 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 physician 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee, who has filed a claim for chronic knee pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of February 26, 2013. Thus far, the applicant has been treated with the following: Analgesic medications; attorney representation; MRI imaging of the injured knee on May 31, 2013, notable for partial meniscal tear, topical compound; and apparent return to some form of work. In a July 29, 2013 progress note, the attending provider notes that the applicant is pending a left knee arthroscopy on August 2, 2013. In a July 23, 2013 utilization review report, the claims administrator denied the request for topical Terocin lotion and partially certified a request for a cold therapy unit purchase as a seven-day rental of cold therapy unit. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On a July 29, 2013 progress note, the applicant is described as having a history of GERD and alcoholism. He has been abstinent for the past 11 years, however. He has a resolved mental disorder. He is presently on Celebrex for pain relief. A July 20, 2013 admission note is notable for comments that the applicant has stable COPD. He is medically cleared to undergo an elective left knee arthroscopy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prescription of Terocin lotion 120mg: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Lidocaine topical, Capsaicin topical, Salicylates topicals, Mentho.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Terocin Topical Pain Relief Lotion - DailyMed.

Decision rationale: The Physician Reviewer's decision rationale: Terocin, per the National Library of Medicine, is an amalgam of methyl salicylate, capsaicin, menthol, and lidocaine. In this case, one of the ingredients in the compound, however, lidocaine carries an unfavorable recommendation here. Per page 112 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, lidocaine is indicated in the treatment of localized peripheral pain or neuropathic pain in those applicants who have failed antidepressants and anticonvulsants. In this case, however, there is no evidence that the applicant's pain is neurologic or neuropathic in nature. The applicant's pain is seemingly musculoskeletal in nature and stems from a torn meniscus. Ongoing usage of Terocin in this context is not recommended as one of the ingredients in the compound, specifically lidocaine, carries an unfavorable recommendation. This results in the entire compound's carrying an unfavorable recommendation, per page 111 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines. Therefore, the request is not certified.