

Case Number:	CM13-0056394		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	05/06/2000
Decision Date:	06/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/14/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/22/2013

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery, has a subspecialty in Hand Surgery, 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 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 records reflect that the injury occurred some 14 years ago. The diagnosis is a lumbosacral musculoligamentous sprain. There is evidence of disc desiccation. Also noted were changes consistent with a psychiatric injury. Additional medications included non-steroidal preparations, as well as oral muscle relaxants. Chiropractic care has been effective in the past. Treatment for the current exacerbation included acupuncture. The requesting provider reiterated that this topical preparation would be supported as the physician's choice alone.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MEDROX OINTMENT 120GM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

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

Decision rationale: Medrox ointment is a topical analgesic ointment containing Methyl Salicylate 20.00%, Menthol 5.00%, and Capsaicin 0.0375%. The MTUS notes that topical analgesics are largely experimental and there have been few randomized controlled trials. Additionally, topical analgesics are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of

antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Based on the clinical documentation provided, there is no documentation that a previous trial of oral antidepressant or anticonvulsant has been attempted. As such, the request is not medically necessary.