

Case Number:	CM13-0056832		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	09/08/2010
Decision Date:	03/31/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/18/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/23/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 patient is a 41-year-old male who reported an injury on 09/08/2010. The mechanism of injury was not provided for review. The patient failed to respond to conservative treatments and ultimately underwent right lateral epicondyle release. The patient had persistent pain complaints in additional arthroscopic lateral release was recommended. Request was made for a scopolamine patch prior to the patient's surgical intervention.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Scopolamine Patch #1, apply the night before or 3 hours pre-operative: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medline Plus website

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation RX List Online version

Decision rationale: The requested scopolamine patch #1 apply night before or 3 hours preoperatively is not medically necessary or appropriate. An online resource Rx list the internet drug index states that the Transdermal emulsion of Scopolamine is primarily used for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with motion sickness and recovery from anesthesia and surgery. The clinical documentation submitted for review does indicate that it has been

recommended that the patient undergo additional surgical intervention. It is also noted within the documentation that the patient recently underwent surgical intervention in 03/2013. There is no documentation of nausea and vomiting associated with that surgical intervention. Additionally, there is no documentation to support that the patient is not able to tolerate oral formulations of antiemetics. Therefore, the need for prophylactic treatment of nausea and vomiting is not established. As such, the requested scopolamine patch #1 apply night before or 3 hours preoperatively is not medically necessary or appropriate.