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| Case Number: | CM13-0064389 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 01/03/2014 | Date of Injury: | 10/28/2002 |
| Decision Date: | 12/17/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 11/26/2013 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 12/11/2013 |

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Massachusetts. 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:

According to the documents available for review, the patient is a 55 year old male. The date of injury is 10/28/2002. The patient sustained an injury to the lumbar spine and right knee. The specific mechanism of injury was not fully elaborated on in the notes available for review. The patient currently complains of pain in the low back and right knee, worse with movement. The patient is maintained on the multimodal pain medication regimen including Lidoderm patch. A request for Lidoderm patch was denied.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lidoderm 5% patch #30 with three (3) refills: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Lidoderm Patch Page(s): 56.

Decision rationale: Lidoderm is the brand name for a lidocaine patch produced by Endo Pharmaceuticals. Topical lidocaine may be recommended for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI) anti-depressants or an antiepileptic drug (AED) such as gabapentin or Lyrica).

This is not a first-line treatment and is only FDA approved for post-herpetic neuralgia. Further research is needed to recommend this treatment for chronic neuropathic pain disorders other than post-herpetic neuralgia. Formulations that do not involve a dermal-patch system are generally indicated as local anesthetics and anti-pruritics. According to the documents available for review, the patient has none of the aforementioned MTUS approved indications for the use of this medication. Therefore, at this time, the requirements for treatment have not been met and medical necessity has not been established.