

Case Number:	CM13-0065055		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	03/28/1999
Decision Date:	04/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/14/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/12/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain 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 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 patient is a 56 year old female who was injured on 05/28/1999 and her injury occurred in her usual work duties. The claimant's prior treatment history has included a Toradol injection and a B12 injection. The progress report dated 10/22/2013 documented the patient to have complaints of low back pain that radiates to bilateral lower extremities to the level of foot and toes. The back pain is associated with weakness, numbness, and tingling in the lower extremity and she has severe leg spasms. The patient reports increased spasms off of Soma.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

EXOTEN C LOTION 120 ML .002-20%-10%: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesic Section Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: According to the guidelines, topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Exoten-C is a topical lotion containing methyl salicylate, menthol, and capsaicin. The guidelines state capsaicin is only recommended as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other

treatments. The medical records do not establish this to the case of the patient. The medical records do not establish clear current complaints, treatment history, and objective findings that establish this product is appropriate and medically necessary for the treatment of this patient's complaints. The medical necessity of Exoten-C (methyl salicylate, menthol, capsaicin) lotion, has not been established.