

Case Number:	CM13-0065332		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	12/01/2009
Decision Date:	05/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/13/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/13/2013

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, 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:

A 52 year old claimant with industrial injury 12/1/09. Claimant is status post right carpal tunnel release with fat pad graft 2/28/12. Exam note 11/4/13 demonstrates unchanged symptoms. Pain, stiffness and weakness is reported. Moderate pain is demonstrated with tenderness to palpation, spasm and range of motion. Request for Capsaicin ointment 0.0375 percent, 60 gram 2-3 times per day for 30 days.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CAPSAICIN 0.0375% OINTMENT 60 GM: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 112-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-112.

Decision rationale: There is insufficient evidence in the records to support medical necessity. There is no evidence in the records that demonstrates intolerance by the claimant to oral anti-inflammatories. Topical analgesics are considered largely experimental per the guidelines cited above. Therefore the Capsaicin 0.0375% ointment 60gm is not medically necessary and appropriate.

