

Case Number:	CM14-0016347		
Date Assigned:	04/11/2014	Date of Injury:	01/09/2013
Decision Date:	06/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/10/2014

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 Arizona. 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:

This is a 42-year-old female who sustained an injury on 1/9/2013 which gave her persistent low back pain with radiation into her legs. The MRI scan on 10/11/2013 revealed mild disc desiccation at L1-L2, otherwise a normal MRI scan of the lumbar spine. The patient has a history of chronic pain and opioid abuse. As part of her medication regimen she is using Lidoderm patches. The progress note of 11/5/2013 states that the Lidoderm patches are not sticking so Tegaderm was prescribed to cover the patches so they would stick.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TEGADERM PATCHES: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medscape, E-Medicine, Wound Care Treatment and Management

Decision rationale: The California MTUS and the ODG do not cover Tegaderm. 3M, which manufactures Tegaderm, states that it is a semi-permeable membrane use in wound care. E-medicine/Medscape states that Tegaderm is semipermeable to oxygen and moisture and

impermeable to bacteria and is a good choice for wounds that are neither dry nor highly exudative. Therefore, since the use of Tegaderm in this patient is not associated with wound care, the medical necessity for using it is not been established.