

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0018858		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/23/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/12/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/03/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/22/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/14/2014

### 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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 57-year-old female with a 1/12/13 date of injury. At the time (12/2/13) of the request for authorization for Menthoderm gel, there is documentation of subjective complaints: (continued right elbow pain) and objective complaints: (tender right elbow medial/lateral (illegible), decreased range of motion, weakness right arm). Current diagnoses include: (right lateral epicondylitis, right medial epicondylitis, and olecranon bursitis). Treatment to date consists of (medication including Menthoderm). There is no documentation of neuropathic pain when trial of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**MENTHODERM GEL:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TOPICAL ANALGESICS Page(s): 111-113.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TOPICAL ANALGESICS Page(s): 111-112.

**Decision rationale:** Medical Treatment Guideline identifies Menthoderm cream as a topical analgesic containing Methyl Salicylate and Menthol. MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of neuropathic pain when trial of antidepressants and

anticonvulsants have failed, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of topical analgesics. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of right lateral epicondylitis, right medial epicondylitis, and olecranon bursitis. However, there is no documentation of neuropathic pain when trial of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Methoderm gel is not medically necessary.