

Case Number:	CM14-0151074		
Date Assigned:	09/19/2014	Date of Injury:	07/31/1998
Decision Date:	10/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/16/2014

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 Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 injured worker is a 49 year old man involved in a work related injury from 7/31/96. The injured worker sustained a low back injury. He is status post lumbar fusion from 12/09. There are multiple treatment notes indicating low back pain, with radiation of pain into the bilateral lower extremities. Medications utilized included Norco, Voltaren, Flexeril, Lidoderm and Lyrica.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lidoderm 5% patch, QTY: 30: Overturned

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

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

Decision rationale: The use of Lidoderm is acceptable for this injured worker. He has long term chronic pain. Notes indicate that they are weaning him down from his prior use of Norco. He has use of Lyrica but also has been using the Lidoderm. This medication reportedly has been helpful and helped reduce pain, although from time to time the injured worker has been having complaints of a "burning" pain into the legs. The use of the Lidoderm to treat his ongoing radicular pain, in conjunction with the use of Lyrica, while the Norco is being reduced and

eventually weaned, is appropriate and acceptable. This drug should be certified. The use of Lidoderm to treat the patient's radicular complaints and neuropathic pain into the legs, in conjunction with the Lyrica is acceptable and appropriate in this chronic pain patient.