

Case Number:	CM14-0159227		
Date Assigned:	10/02/2014	Date of Injury:	05/11/2010
Decision Date:	10/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/29/2014

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 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 62-year-old female with a 5/11/10 date of injury. At the time (8/13/14) of request for authorization for retrospective request for Lidoderm 5% patches QTY 30 DOS 08/13/14, there is documentation of subjective (chronic bilateral upper extremity pain secondary to carpal tunnel syndrome with weakness and numbness in the hands) and objective (no pertinent findings) findings, current diagnoses (lumbar disc degeneration, lumbosacral spondylosis, cervicobrachial syndrome, and neck pain), and treatment to date (medications (including Tramadol, Lidoderm patches, Percocet, Darvocet, Hydrocodone, and Vicodin)). 9/11/14 medical report identifies that patient has previously tried various medications (including Percocet and Darvocet); and that Lidoderm patch was tolerated well without any side effects. There is no documentation that a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as Gabapentin or Lyrica) has failed and functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Lidoderm patch use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request for Lidoderm 5% patches, QTY: 30, for the service date of 08/13/14:
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 Lidoderm (lidocaine patch) Page(s): 56-57. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of neuropathic pain after there has been evidence that a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as Gabapentin or Lyrica) has failed, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a lidocaine patch. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of lumbar disc degeneration, lumbosacral spondylosis, cervicobrachial syndrome, and neck pain. In addition, there is documentation of neuropathic pain and ongoing treatment with Lidoderm patch. However, there is no documentation that a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as gabapentin or Lyrica) has failed. In addition, despite documentation that Lidoderm patch was tolerated well without any side effects, there is no (clear) documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Lidoderm patch use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for retrospective request for Lidoderm 5% patches QTY 30 for the service date of 08/13/14 is not medically necessary.