

Case Number:	CM14-0171924		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	04/28/2011
Decision Date:	12/31/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/17/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine, and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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:

The patient is a 52 year old woman who sustained a work-related injury on April 28 2011. Subsequently, the patient developed a chronic back pain. According to a progress report dated on September 16 2014, the patient was complaining of flare of back pain. The patient physical examination demonstrated lumbar tenderness with reduced range of motion, tenderness over the SI joint and decrease sensation over the right lower extremity. The patient was diagnosed with thoracic and lumbar strain. The provider requested authorization for a topical analgesic.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Ultracin topical lotion 120ml: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Salicylate topicals Section Page(s): 126.

Decision rationale: Ultracin is formed by methyl salicylate, menthol and capsaicin. According to MTUS, Salicylate topicals are recommended and is better than placebo. There are no strong controlled studies supporting the efficacy of Ultracin. Furthermore, it is not clear from the records that the failed oral first line therapies such as anticonvulsant or developed unacceptable

adverse reactions from the use of these medications. Therefore, Ultracin is not medically necessary.