

Case Number:	CM14-0184659		
Date Assigned:	11/12/2014	Date of Injury:	02/29/2008
Decision Date:	12/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/05/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation 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:

This patient sustained an injury on 2/29/08 while employed by [REDACTED]. Request(s) under consideration include Carac Cream. Diagnoses include Actinic Keratosis and Solar elastosis. Report of 9/22/14 from a clinician noted the patient with complaints of scaly lesions on exposed areas. Objective findings only noted "AK's." Treatment plan included liquid nitrogen and Carac cream. Utilization report of 10/6/14 noted partial certification of Carac cream as no evidence of objective findings were presented nor functional benefit from its continued use. The request(s) for Carac Cream was partially certified on 10/6/14 citing guidelines criteria and lack of medical necessity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Carac Cream: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, drugs.com. Carac cream, .05%

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: National Clearing house on actinic keratosis; webmd; drugs.com

Decision rationale: An AME report of 9/23/13 noted patient sustained injury in 2008 while serving as Fire Department Captain with symptoms involving neck, back, knees, ankles and left elbow. MMI was noted previously on 2/16/10. Future medical care included physical therapy for exacerbations of chronic symptoms. The patient is under current treatment for actinic keratosis are rough, scaly skin patches that develop from years of sun exposure, mostly found on the face, lips, ears, scalp, and neck. Also known as solar keratosis, an actinic keratosis enlarges and a small percentage of actinic keratosis lesions can eventually become squamous cell cancer. Actinic keratosis is caused by frequent or intense exposure to UV rays, from the sun or from tanning beds. Guidelines are silent on the use of Carac cream. It appears the patient is receiving medication and nitrogen treatment regularly; however, submitted reports have not adequately demonstrated specific injury exposure, clinical findings, or functional benefit derived from previous treatment already rendered for this chronic 2008 injury that has been declared P&S with future therapy for flare-ups. The Carac Cream is not medically necessary and appropriate.