

Case Number:	CM14-0021587		
Date Assigned:	06/13/2014	Date of Injury:	08/06/2012
Decision Date:	08/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/20/2014

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 and 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 is a 65-year-old female with a date of injury of 8/06/12. Mechanism of injury is a fall down a stairway with injury to multiple body parts, including the right knee. The patient went on to have arthroscopic surgery to the right knee. A topical medication, Mentherm, was prescribed and this was submitted to Utilization Review. An adverse decision was rendered on 2/06/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RETROSPECTIVE REQUEST FOR MENTHODERM OINTMENT, (DURATION UNKNOWN FREQUENCY UNKNOWN) DISPENSED ON 1/1/10/14 FOR THE TREATMENT OF BILATERAL KNEES, WRISTS AND ELBOWS.: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics, Salicylate topicals Page(s): 111-113; page 105.

Decision rationale: Mentherm is a topical cream that consists of Methyl Salicylate with Menthol. The CA MTUS states that topical salicylate (such as Ben-Gay, Methyl Salicylate) are significantly better than placebo in chronic pain, and states that they are recommended. There are no medications in this topical agent that are not guideline supported. Retrospective Mentherm is appropriate for topical use.

