

Case Number:	CM14-0025201		
Date Assigned:	06/11/2014	Date of Injury:	02/08/2013
Decision Date:	08/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/27/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 57-year-old male with a 2/8/13 date of injury. At the time (1/10/14) of the request for authorization for Lidopro topical ointment 4 oz, there is documentation of subjective (radiation of pain into the right buttocks, with most of the pain is on the right side of the low back and right buttock) and objective (tenderness to palpation in right lower lumbar facet regions, lumbar extension limited to 10 degrees due to increased pain, some increased pain in right lower facet regions with facet loading, positive FABER's, Gaenslen's, Fortin, compression and distraction on the right) findings, current diagnoses (facet arthropathy of the lumbar spine, herniated nucleus pulposus of the lumbar spine, and right sacroiliac joint dysfunction), and treatment to date (medication).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LIDOPRO TOPICAL OINTMENT 4 OZ: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TOPICAL COMPOUNDS.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies that many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control; that ketoprofen, lidocaine (in creams, lotion or gels), capsaicin in a 0.0375% formulation, baclofen and other muscle relaxants, and gabapentin and other antiepilepsy drugs are not recommended for topical applications; and that any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended, is not recommended. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of facet arthropathy of the lumbar spine, herniated nucleus pulposus of the lumbar spine, and right sacroiliac joint dysfunction. However, Lidopro contains at least one drug (lidocaine in a lotion) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for 1 Lidopro topical ointment 4 oz is not medically necessary.