

Case Number:	CM14-0039754		
Date Assigned:	06/27/2014	Date of Injury:	10/27/2001
Decision Date:	07/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/25/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/04/2014

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 56-year-old male with a 10/27/01 date of injury. At the time (3/25/14) of the Decision for pharmacy purchase of Terocin lotion 120gm times 2, there is documentation of subjective findings of chronic low back pain and objective findings of lumbar paraspinous muscle spasms, decreased lumbar range of motion, and decreased ankle reflexes. The current diagnoses are cervicgia, lumbalgia, and thoracic pain. The treatment to date includes cervical and lumbar fusion, medications of Tramadol, Norco, Naprosyn, Mentherm cream, and Flexeril, physical modalities, and lumbar medial branch block.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pharmacy purchase of Terocin lotion 120gm times 2: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: Terocin patch contains ingredients that include Lidocaine and Menthol. 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. California 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 cervicalgia, lumbalgia, and thoracic pain. However, Terocin contains at least one drug (Lidocaine) that is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for pharmacy purchase of Terocin lotion 120gm times 2 is not medically necessary.