

Case Number:	CM14-0043508		
Date Assigned:	07/02/2014	Date of Injury:	06/25/2010
Decision Date:	10/02/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/10/2014

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 Tennessee. 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 56-year-old male with a 6/25/10 date of injury. The mechanism of injury was not noted. According to a handwritten progress note dated 1/16/14, the patient stated that his low back pain has been manageable. He rated his pain as a 1-2/10 daily. Objective findings: sciatica, lumbar spine ROM mildly decreased. Diagnostic impression: lumbar spine discopathy. This report contained no mention of Methyl-C and no other reports are available regarding the identity or indications for Methyl-C. Treatment to date: medication management, activity modification. A UR decision dated 3/6/14 denied the request for Methyl-C enzyme. This product contains capsaicin and with lack of documentation of failure of first line treatment options, this medication is not medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Methyl-C enzyme 120 milligrams: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Capsaicin, topical.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Evidence-Basis for the Decision: since Methyl-C is not a standard medication and there are no references available on the internet or from the treating physician, no guideline or evidence can be determined. The identity of this product is unknown.

Decision rationale: It is unclear what type of medication this request is for. An online search did not reveal any information identifying the ingredients of Methyl-C enzyme. There was no documentation in the records reviewed describing this product. Therefore, the request for Methyl-C enzyme 120 milligrams was not medically necessary.