

Case Number:	CM14-0071689		
Date Assigned:	07/16/2014	Date of Injury:	07/31/2003
Decision Date:	09/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/19/2014

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 Occupational Medicine 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:

The patient is a 51-year-old female who was injured on July 31, 2003. The patient continued to experience pain in her right knee. Physical examination was notable for right lower extremity extending to 180 degrees and flexing to 110 degrees. Diagnosis is internal derangement of the right knee status post total knee replacement. Treatment included surgery, knee brace, orthotics, and medications. Request for authorization for Lido Pro lotion was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lido pro lotion four ounces: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 111-112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Treatment Guidelines from the Medical Letter, April 1, 2013, Issue 128: Drugs for pain.

Decision rationale: LidoPro lotion is a compounded topical analgesic medication containing capsaicin, Lidocaine, menthol, and methylsalicylate. Topical analgesics are recommended for neuropathic pain when anticonvulsants and antidepressants have failed. Compounded topical analgesics are commonly prescribed and there is little to no research to support the use of these

compounds. Furthermore, the guidelines state that "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." Capsaicin is recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or cannot tolerate other treatments. It is recommended for osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and chronic non-specific back pain and is considered experimental in high doses. In this case the patient there is no documentation that the patient has failed to respond to other treatments. The medication is not recommended. Lidocaine is recommended for localized peripheral pain after the evidence of a trial for first-line therapy, such as an antidepressant or antiepileptic drug. It is only FDA approved for the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia. The guidelines state that further research is needed to recommend this treatment for chronic neuropathic pain. In this case there is no documentation that the patient has failed the trial of a first-line drug. The medication is not recommended. Methyl salicylate is a topical salicylate and is recommended, being significantly better than placebo in chronic pain. There are no guidelines present for menthol. Topical analgesics containing menthol, methylsalicylate or capsaicin are generally well-tolerated, but there have been rare reports of severe skin burns requiring treatment or hospitalization. Menthol is not recommended. This medication contains drugs that are not recommended. Therefore the medication cannot be recommended. The request should not be authorized.