

Case Number:	CM14-0192079		
Date Assigned:	11/25/2014	Date of Injury:	07/22/2011
Decision Date:	01/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/17/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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:

1/15/14 reports pain in the left arm with weakness and pain. There was C6 Neuropathy and was recommended for C5-6 anterior fusion. The insured reported feeling improvement and wanted to hold on surgery. 11/10/14 note reports pain in the arm. Complaints include weakness, numbness, in the right shoulder, left arm and left hand. A request was made for Terocin Patch composed of Salicylate, Capsaicin, Menthol and Lidocaine. Diagnosis was C6 neuropathy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Prescription drug, generic (Terocin patch duration and freq. unknown): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical analgesics Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: MTUS notes topical NSAIDS and other agents are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. (Namaka, 2004) These agents are applied locally to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. (Colombo, 2006). NSAID cream may be used in peripheral joint arthritis such as knee and is not supported under

MTUS for use on spine. The medical records note use of ibuprofen orally and does not indicate any issue of non-tolerance or rationale for combining a topical NSAID with oral administration. There is no indication of a neuropathic pain condition. As such the medical records provided for review do not support use of NSAID cream congruent with MTUS guidelines.