

Case Number:	CM14-0195118		
Date Assigned:	12/02/2014	Date of Injury:	10/19/2012
Decision Date:	01/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/21/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain 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:

This is a patient with a date of injury of October 19, 2012. A utilization review determination dated November 12, 2014 recommends non-certification of Lidoderm patch. A progress report dated August 21, 2014 identifies subjective complaints of neck pain extending to the right shoulder and scapular area. Cervical facet injections were denied. Current medications include Norco and Naprosyn. Physical examination reveals tenderness around the right paracervical area with restricted range of motion. Diagnoses include cervicgia and degenerative cervical disc disease. The treatment plan recommends facet injections.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lidoderm 5% patch # 30: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics (Argoff, 2006).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 8 C.C.R. 9792.20 - 9792.26 MTUS (Effective July 18, 2009) Page(s): 112.

Decision rationale: Regarding request for topical Lidoderm, the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend the use of topical lidocaine for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of the 1st line therapy such as tri-cyclic antidepressants, SNRIs,

or antiepileptic drugs. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication that the patient has failed first-line therapy recommendations. Additionally, there is no documentation of analgesic effect or objective functional improvement as a result of the currently prescribed Lidoderm, if it has been used previously. Finally, there is no documentation of localized peripheral pain as recommended by guidelines. As such, the currently requested lidoderm is not medically necessary.