

Case Number:	CM15-0104953		
Date Assigned:	06/09/2015	Date of Injury:	08/07/1994
Decision Date:	07/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/06/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/01/2015

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: North Carolina

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 injured worker is a 54 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 8/7/94. She reported injuries to her neck, upper back, mid back, lower back and left ankle after an elevator she was riding in stopped and threw her backwards. The injured worker was diagnosed as having lumbago and cervicgia. Treatment to date has included trigger point injections, topical medications, TENS unit, physical therapy and home exercise program. Currently, the injured worker complains of low back pain with radiation to the neck. She rates the pain 8 without medications and 5/10 with medications. She is currently using Butrans 7.5mct patches and reports they are no strong enough. Physical exam noted steady gait, no vertebral tenderness and slightly impaired straight leg lift. The treatment plan included prescriptions for Butrans patch 10mcg and Lidoderm patches and TENS electrodes. A request for authorization was submitted for Butrans patch, Lidoderm path and electrodes for TENS unit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lidoderm patch 5% 1 patch 12 hrs on/12hours off #60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical lidocaine Page(s): 111-112.

Decision rationale: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on topical lidocaine states: Lidocaine Indication: Neuropathic pain Recommended for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as gabapentin or Lyrica). Topical lidocaine, in the formulation of a dermal patch (Lidoderm) has been designated for orphan status by the FDA for neuropathic pain. Lidoderm is also used off-label for diabetic neuropathy. No other commercially approved topical formulations of lidocaine (whether creams, lotions or gels) are indicated for neuropathic pain. Non-dermal patch formulations are generally indicated as local anesthetics and anti-pruritics. Further research is needed to recommend this treatment for chronic neuropathic pain disorders other than post-herpetic neuralgia. Formulations that do not involve a dermal-patch system are generally indicated as local anesthetics and anti-pruritics. In February 2007 the FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals of the potential hazards of the use of topical lidocaine. Those at particular risk were individuals that applied large amounts of this substance over large areas, left the products on for long periods of time, or used the agent with occlusive dressings. Systemic exposure was highly variable among patients. Only FDA-approved products are currently recommended. (Argoff, 2006) (Dworkin, 2007) (Khaliq-Cochrane, 2007) (Knotkova, 2007) (Lexi-Comp, 2008) Non-neuropathic pain: Not recommended. There is only one trial that tested 4% lidocaine for treatment of chronic muscle pain. The results showed there was no superiority over placebo. (Scudds, 1995). This medication is recommended for localized peripheral pain. The patient has no documented failure of all first line agents indicated for the treatment of neuropathic pain as outlined above. Therefore criteria as set forth by the California MTUS as outlined above have not been met and the request is not certified or medically necessary.