

Case Number:	CM15-0106507		
Date Assigned:	06/10/2015	Date of Injury:	10/14/2014
Decision Date:	07/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/06/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/02/2015

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: Massachusetts

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

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 30-year-old female sustained an industrial injury on 10/14/14. She subsequently reported right hand pain. Diagnoses include right wrist sprain. Treatments to date include home exercises, work restrictions and prescription pain medications. The injured worker continues to experience right hand numbness and tingling. Upon examination, there was severe tenderness noted at the volar aspect. Wrist range of motion was restricted. Grasp and grip strength were diminished. Tinel, Phalen and Finkelstein tests were negative. A request for Medi-Patch Capsaicin 0.035 percent, Lidocaine 2 percent, Menthol 5 percent, Methyl Salicylate .20 percent one patch topically applied for q12 hours and the 12 hours off #30 was made by the treating physician.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Medi-Patch Capsaicin 0.035 percent, Lidocaine 2 percent, Menthol 5 percent, Methyl Salicylate .20 percent one patch topically applied for q12 hours and the 12 hours off #30:
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 (1) Medications for chronic pain, p60 (2) Topical Analgesics, p111-113.

Decision rationale: The claimant sustained a work injury in October 2014 and continues to be treated for right wrist pain. When seen, there was severe wrist tenderness with decreased range of motion and decreased grip strength. She was being treated for a wrist sprain. A Medi-Patch contains methyl salicylate, capsaicin, menthol, and Lidocaine. Topical lidocaine in a formulation that does not involve a dermal-patch system can be recommended for localized peripheral pain. Menthol and methyl salicylate are used as a topical analgesic in over the counter medications such as Ben-Gay or Icy Hot. They work by first cooling the skin then warming it up, providing a topical anesthetic and analgesic effect which may be due to interference with transmission of pain signals through nerves. Guidelines address the use of capsaicin, which is believed to work through a similar mechanism and is recommended as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments. Topical lidocaine in a patch formulation is not medically necessary and there are other topical medications that could be considered such as topical diclofenac. Guidelines also recommend that when prescribing medications only one medication should be given at a time. By prescribing a multiple combination medication, in addition to the increased risk of adverse side effects, it would not be possible to determine whether any derived benefit is due to a particular component. Therefore, this medication is not medically necessary.