

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0013385		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/02/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/20/1999
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/12/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/07/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/23/2015

### 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: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Plastic Surgery

### 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 female, who sustained an industrial injury on August 20, 1999. She has reported facial hyperpigmentation and facial dyschromia from prior use of pain medications. The diagnoses have included dyschromia. Treatment to date has included psychological treatment, sunscreens, topical creams and intense pulse light treatment. Currently, the injured worker complains of dark spots located above the eyebrows, upper lip, nose and forehead. On January 7, 2015, Utilization Review non-certified 8 sessions of Intense Pulse Light Laser Treatment, noting Non- MTUS Guidelines. On January 23, 2015, the injured worker submitted an application for Independent Medical Review for review of 8 sessions of Intense Pulse Light(IPL) Laser Treatment.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**8 Sessions of Intense Pulse Light Laser Treatment: Overturned**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Mol Med. 2011 Jan-Feb; 17(1-2): 113-125. Published online Oct 5, 2010. DOI: 10.2119/molmed.2009.00153.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation What's New in Objective Assessment and Treatment of Facial Hyperpigmentation Vanessa E. Molinar BA, Susan C. Taylor MD and Amit G. Pandya MD. Dermatologic Clinics, 2014-04-01, Volume 32, Issue 2, Pages 123-135, Copyright © 2014 Elsevier Inc.

**Decision rationale:** The patient is a 54 year old with dyschromia and hyperpigmentation attributed to previous medication use and had failed topical medication treatment. The patient had been certified for 8 laser treatments for correction using a ND-Yag device. This was not performed and instead a request for IPL laser x 8 treatments was made. The patient is noted to have undergone 1 IPL laser treatment on 12/15/14. As the initial laser treatment of 8 sessions was considered medically necessary and certified, IPL laser treatment should be considered medically necessary as well. The patient had failed topical medication correction and laser therapy can provide a possible correction. The fact that a different type of laser was requested should not affect the decision for medical necessity, as based on the above reference, IPL laser treatment can be effective for hyperpigmentation/dyschromia. The UR stated that no follow-up was provided to an initial laser treatment 1 week later. As commonly known, multiple laser treatments are typically necessary for treatment and 1 week following an initial treatment is not sufficient to judge an adequate response. Therefore, IPL laser treatment should be considered medically necessary.