

Case Number:	CM15-0143467		
Date Assigned:	08/04/2015	Date of Injury:	04/29/2014
Decision Date:	09/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/14/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/23/2015

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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 39 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 04-29-2014. There was no mechanism of injury documented. The injured worker was diagnosed with low back pain with lumbosacral radiculopathy. The injured worker was evaluated by a neuro surgeon and is not considered a surgical candidate. Treatment to date has included diagnostic testing, conservative measures and medications. According to the primary treating physician's progress report on April 22, 2015, the injured worker continues to experience low back and left leg pain rated at 6-7 out of 10 on the pain scale. The injured worker reported his feet go numb with activities. Examination demonstrated lumbosacral paraspinal muscle spasm with tenderness over the left lower lumbosacral facet joints. Deep tendon reflexes were documented as 1+ in the lower extremities with motor strength within normal limits. Straight leg raise was positive in the seated position with tightness in the left lower back. The injured worker had an antalgic gait. Current medications are listed as Ultracet 37.5mg-325mg, Lyrica, Naproxen and Lidoderm patches. The injured worker remains off work but was allowed to return with modified duties. Treatment plan consists of adding Tylenol with Codeine for night time pain relief and the current request for Terocin patches.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Terocin patches #10 patches (freq/dose not provided RX date 6/24/15): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics, pages 111-113.

Decision rationale: The provider has not submitted any new information to support for topical compound analgesic Terocin which was non-certified. Per manufacturer, Terocin is Methyl Salicylate 25%, Menthol 10%, Capsaicin 0.025%, Lidocaine 2.5%, Aloe, Borage Oil, Boswellia Serrat, and other inactive ingredients. Per MTUS, medications should be trialed one at a time and is against starting multiples simultaneously. In addition, Boswellia serrata and topical Lidocaine are specifically not recommended per MTUS. Per FDA, topical lidocaine as an active ingredient in Terocin is not indicated and places unacceptable risk of seizures, irregular heartbeats and death on patients. The provider has not submitted specific indication to support this medication outside of the guidelines and directives to allow for certification of this topical compounded Terocin. Additionally, there is no demonstrated functional improvement or pain relief from treatment already rendered for this chronic injury nor is there any report of acute flare-up, new red-flag conditions, or intolerance to oral medications as the patient continues to be prescribed oral meds. The Terocin patches #10 patches (freq/dose not provided RX date 6/24/15) is not medically necessary or appropriate.