

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0147700		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/11/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/25/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/15/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/29/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/30/2015

### 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: Texas, New York, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine

### 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 applicant is a represented a 44-year-old who has filed a claim for chronic elbow and wrist pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of August 25, 2011. In a Utilization Review report dated June 29, 2015, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for topical mometasone cream, apparently prescribed on June 22, 2015. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. In a handwritten note dated May 21, 2015, the applicant reported ongoing complaints of wrist and elbow pain. Tenderness about the elbow epicondylar region was appreciated status post earlier elbow surgery. An unspecified compounded scar cream and 12 sessions of physical therapy were endorsed. The applicant's work status was not furnished. There was no mention of the topical mometasone being employed on this date. On February 26, 2015, the applicant underwent open right carpal tunnel release surgery, radical flexor tenosynovectomy, and a partial lateral epicondylectomy procedure. The claims administrator's medical evidence log was surveyed. The most recent note on file was in fact the handwritten May 21, 2015 progress note, which made no seeming mention of topical mometasone. Thus, the June 22, 2015 order form made available to the claims administrator was not seemingly incorporated into the IMR packet.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Mometasone Furoate compound 60gm, QTY: 1: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9463794>.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 3 Initial Approaches to Treatment Page(s): 47. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Food and Drug Administration, ELOCON® brand of mometasone furoate cream Cream 0.1%.

**Decision rationale:** No, the request for topical mometasone cream was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. The MTUS Guideline in ACOEM Chapter 3, page 47 stipulates that an attending provider incorporate some discussion of efficacy of medications for the particular condition for which it has been prescribed into his choice of recommendations so as to ensure proper usage and so as to manage expectations. Here, however, the handwritten May 25, 2015 progress note made no explicit mention of topical mometasone cream. While the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) acknowledges that mometasone (Elocon cream) is a medium-potency corticosteroid indicated in the treatment of inflammatory and/or pruritic dermatoses, here, however, there was no mention of the applicant's having any inflammatory or pruritic dermatoses present on the May 21, 2015 office visit in question. It appears that the applicant's primary issue on that date was elbow pain status post earlier elbow epicondylectomy surgery. It was not clearly established, thus, why the topical mometasone cream in question was prescribed. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.