

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0167250		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/04/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/09/2015
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/07/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/30/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/25/2015

### 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 52 year old male, who sustained an industrial-work injury on 2-9-15. He reported initial complaints of neck, back, bilateral knee, and right hip pain. The injured worker was diagnosed as having chronic lumbar strain, rule out disc herniation, bilateral knee meniscal tear, and right lower extremity radicular pain, and chronic cervical spine sprain-strain, rule out disc herniation. Treatment to date has included oral medication. Currently, the injured worker complains of intermittent low back pain, neck pain, right hip pain, and bilateral knee pain. Pain is rated 6 out of 10. Per the primary physician's progress report (PR-2) on 7-20-15, exam noted tenderness to palpation over the cervical spine, lumbar spine paraspinals, as well as trapezius muscles and right quadratus lumborum, decreased S1 nerve root deep tendon reflexes on the right and increase on the left, decreased sensation over the L4 nerve root level. Straight leg raise is positive. There is inability to heel and toe walk. The requested treatment included Kera-Tek gel 4 oz.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Kera-Tek gel 4 oz:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on topical analgesics states: Recommended as an option as indicated below. Largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. It is primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. (Namaka, 2004) These agents are applied locally to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. (Colombo, 2006) Many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control (including NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants, glutamate receptor antagonists, "adrenergic receptor agonist, adenosine, cannabinoids, cholinergic receptor agonists", agonists, prostanoids, bradykinin, adenosine triphosphate, biogenic amines, and nerve growth factor). (Argoff, 2006) There is little to no research to support the use of many of these agents. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. The requested medication contains ingredients, which are not indicated per the California MTUS for topical analgesic use. Therefore, the request is not certified and therefore is not medically necessary.