

Case Number:	CM15-0189205		
Date Assigned:	10/01/2015	Date of Injury:	03/01/2013
Decision Date:	12/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/25/2015

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: Pennsylvania

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Hospice & Palliative 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 injured worker is a 27 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on March 01, 2013. The injured worker was diagnosed as having late effect burns to the bilateral upper extremities, hands, and torso. Treatment and diagnostic studies to date has included status post Z-plasty to the left upper extremity, steroid injections to the right upper extremity, and psychotherapy. In a progress note dated August 17, 2015 the treating physician reports complaints of tightness to the left arm that was noted to be "improved", tightness to the right upper arm and right forearm, along with hyperpigmentation to the donor sites on the back. Examination performed on August 17, 2015 was revealing for "areas of multiple Z-plasty on the left upper extremity are healing very well", tightness to the skin of the right upper arm and forearm with pronation, and hyperpigmentation to the donor sites on the back. The documentation provided did not indicate prior treatment of the hyperpigmentation to the donor sites on the back. On August 17, 2015 the treating physician requested Bleaching Cream with 10% Hydroquinone, Retin-A 0.5%, and Fluocinolone 0.01% for 60 Gram with 2 refills to be applied to the hyperpigmented areas. On August 25, 2015 the Utilization Review denied the request for Bleaching Cream with 10% Hydroquinone, Retin-A 0.5%, and Fluocinolone 0.01% for 60 Gram with 2 refills.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bleaching Cream: 10 Percent Hydroquinone, Retin-A .5 Percent, Fluocinolone .01 Percent 60 Gram with 2 Refills: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Topical Analgesics. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Hydroquinone: Drug information. Topic 8539, version 93.0. Up-to-date, accessed 11/13/2015. Topical tretinoin (topical all-trans retinoic acid): Drug information. Topic 10014, version 137.0. Up-to-date, accessed 11/13/2015. Fluocinolone (topical): Drug information. Topic 9130, version 117.0. Up-to-date, accessed 11/13/2015.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines strongly emphasize that any compound product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is itself not recommended. The request is for a compound that contains medications from the skin bleaching (hydroquinone), acne skin product (tretinoin, Retin-A), and steroid (fluocinolone) classes. The MTUS Guidelines are silent as to the individual use of these topical medications. There was no discussion sufficiently detailing the reason this cream was needed or special circumstances that would sufficiently support the use of this compound product in this setting. In the absence of such evidence, the current request for 60g of skin bleaching cream (10% hydroquinone, 0.5% Retin-A, and 0.1% fluocinolone) is not medically necessary.