

Case Number:	CM15-0197883		
Date Assigned:	10/13/2015	Date of Injury:	02/01/1999
Decision Date:	11/20/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/01/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/08/2015

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: New York

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal 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 58 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 2-1-99. Many of the medical reports are difficult to decipher. The injured worker was diagnosed as having degenerative disc disease or L4-5 spondylosis, L3-5 stenosis, and status post L3-4 "lam-disc" with residual. Treatment to date has included medication such as Tylenol #3. On 6-26-14, the injured worker complained of low back pain. On 6-28-14, the treating physician requested authorization for retrospective Ultracin topical lotion for the date of service 6-27-14. On 8-28-15, the request was non-certified.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request for Ultracin topical lotion - apply twice a day for date of service 06/27/2014): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Topical Analgesics.

Decision rationale: According to the California MTUS Guidelines, topical analgesics are primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. These agents are applied topically to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. Many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control including, for example, NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics or antidepressants. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. In this case there is no documentation provided necessitating Ultracin lotion. This medication contains methyl salicylate, capsaicin and menthol. MTUS states that capsaicin is recommended only as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments. There is no documentation of intolerance to other previous medications. Medical necessity for the requested topical medication has not been established. The requested treatment is not medically necessary.