

Case Number:	CM15-0028145		
Date Assigned:	02/23/2015	Date of Injury:	02/11/1997
Decision Date:	04/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/21/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/17/2015

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 Jersey, Michigan, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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:

This 53 year old female sustained an industrial injury on 2/11/97. She subsequently reports chronic low back pain with right lower extremity radiation. Diagnoses include lumbar radiculopathy. Treatments to date have included acupuncture and prescription pain medications. On 1/21/15, Utilization Review non-certified a request for Topical Lenza Patch, quantity 30 (Lidocaine 4% with Menthol 1%). The Topical Lenza Patch, quantity 30 (Lidocaine 4% with Menthol 1%) was denied based on MTUS Chronic Pain guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Topical Lenza Patch, quantity 30 (Lidocaine 4% with Menthol 1%): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics , Lidoderm (lidocaine patch) Page(s): 56-57, 112.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few

randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. That is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended is not recommended. The proposed topical analgesic contains Lidocaine and Menthol, a topical analgesic that is not recommended by MTUS. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. Based on the above, Topical Lenza Patch, quantity 30 (Lidocaine 4% with Menthol 1%) is not medically necessary.