

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0033384		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/26/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/30/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/07/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/22/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/23/2015

### 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: 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 injured worker is a 65 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on October 30, 2013. The diagnoses have included shoulder injury, closed dislocation of shoulder, tendinitis shoulder and epicondylitis elbow lateral. Treatment to date has included TENS and medication. Currently, the injured worker complains of left shoulder, left hand and upper extremity pain. In a progress note dated January 12, 2015, the treating provider reports decreased range of motion in left shoulder. On January 22, 2015 Utilization Review non-certified a Lido pro topical cream 12gm 4 fluid ounce, noting, Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Guidelines was cited.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Retrospective request for Lido pro topical cream 12gm 4 fl oz (DOS: 1/12/15): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical salicylate; Topical Analgesics Page(s): 105; 111-113.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics; Capsaicin; Lidocaine; Topical Salicylates Page(s): 28-9, 56, 105, 111-13.

**Decision rationale:** Lidopro (capsaicin-lidocaine-menthol-methyl salicylate) cream is a combination product formulated for use as a topical analgesic. Capsaicin is a capsaicinoid compound with analgesic properties. It is used medically in the form of a topical ointment, spray or patch and is indicated for the temporary relief of minor aches and pains of muscles and joints and to reduce the symptoms of a peripheral neuropathy. It has also been used to treat the itching and inflammation caused by psoriasis. When compared to a placebo, its use has been superior in relieving chronic neuropathic pain and musculoskeletal pain. Lidocaine is an anesthetic recommended in the MTUS only for treatment of neuropathic pain and only in the formulation Lidoderm. Other topical forms of this medication are not recommended and use of this medication for non-neuropathic pain is also not recommended. Menthol is a topical analgesic medication with local anesthetic and counter-irritant qualities. Methyl salicylate is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) and studies have shown NSAIDs have been effective when given topically in short-term use trails for chronic musculoskeletal pain. However, long-term use of topical NSAIDs has not been adequately studied. It is important to note the MTUS states, "Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended." Since lidocaine in combination with any other product is not recommended for topical use, this product is not recommended. Medical necessity for use of this preparation has not been established.