

Case Number:	CM15-0056169		
Date Assigned:	04/01/2015	Date of Injury:	08/26/2010
Decision Date:	05/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/19/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/24/2015

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

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 56 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 08/26/10. Initial complaints and diagnoses are not available. Treatments to date include medications and an epidural steroid injection. Diagnostic studies are not addressed. Current complaints include neck pain and radiating arm pain. In a progress note dated 03/16/15 the treating provider reports the plan of care as an additional epidural injection, and continued topiramate. The requested treatment is Terocin.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Terocin 4%-4% 30ml, per 03/16/15 order quantity: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical analgesics Page(s): 111-112.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Guidelines state that topical analgesics are generally considered experimental as they have few controlled trials to determine efficacy and safety currently. The MTUS Guidelines for Chronic Pain also state that topical lidocaine is not a first-line therapy for chronic pain, but may be recommended for localized peripheral neuropathic pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (including tri-cyclic, SNRI antidepressants, or an AED such as gabapentin or Lyrica). Topical lidocaine is not recommended for non-neuropathic pain as studies showed no superiority over placebo. Terocin (Methyl Salicylate, Capsaicin, Menthol, Lidocaine) is a combination product which contains lidocaine. The worker was already using topical lidocaine patches for chronic pain, which is unnecessary. Also, two different strengths of Terocin were requested but not explained but seems unnecessary. Therefore, the request for Terocin 4%-4% 30ml will be considered medically unnecessary.

Terocin 0.25%-25% 240ml, per 03/16/15 order quantity: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines topical analgesics Page(s): 111-112.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Guidelines state that topical analgesics are generally considered experimental as they have few controlled trials to determine efficacy and safety currently. The MTUS Guidelines for Chronic Pain also state that topical lidocaine is not a first-line therapy for chronic pain, but may be recommended for localized peripheral neuropathic pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (including tri-cyclic, SNRI antidepressants, or an AED such as gabapentin or Lyrica). Topical lidocaine is not recommended for non-neuropathic pain as studies showed no superiority over placebo. Terocin (Methyl Salicylate, Capsaicin, Menthol, Lidocaine) is a combination product which contains lidocaine. The worker was already using topical lidocaine patches for chronic pain, which is unnecessary. Also, two different strengths of Terocin were requested but not explained but seems unnecessary. Therefore, the request for Terocin 0.25%-25% 240ml will be considered medically unnecessary.