

Case Number:	CM15-0056770		
Date Assigned:	04/01/2015	Date of Injury:	03/17/2010
Decision Date:	05/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/23/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/25/2015

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: 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:

The injured worker is a 43-year-old male with an industrial injury dated March 17, 2010. The injured worker diagnoses include cervical radiculopathy and backache unspecified spinal. He has been treated with diagnostic studies, prescribed medications and periodic follow up visits. According to the progress note dated 2/05/2015, the injured worker reported neck pain radiating to bilateral arms. Objective findings revealed hypertonicity, spasm and tenderness of the cervical spine, lumbar spine and thoracic spine. Restricted range of motion due to pain was noted in the lumbar and cervical spine. The treating physician prescribed Flector 1.3 % adhesive patch now under review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Flector 1.3 % adhesive patch, Qty 30 with 5 refills: 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.

Decision rationale: Flector patch is a topical non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). 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. There is no documentation that the patient failed oral NSAID. Based on the patient's records, the prescription of Flector 1.3 % adhesive patch, Qty 30 with 5 refills is not medically necessary.