

Case Number:	CM15-0083824		
Date Assigned:	05/06/2015	Date of Injury:	03/19/2012
Decision Date:	06/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/01/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/01/2015

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: North Carolina

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 44 year old male with an industrial injury dated 3/19/2012. The injured worker's diagnoses include amputation through foot and backache not otherwise specified. Treatment consisted of diagnostic studies, prescribed medications, physical therapy, and periodic follow up visits. In a progress note dated 3/12/2015, the injured worker rated his pain with medications as a 4/10 and a 6/10 without medications. The injured worker also reported poor quality of sleep, unchanged activity level and no new problems or side effects. Objective findings revealed moderate pain, anxiety, bilateral tenderness on both sides of lumbar spine, hyperesthesia over lateral foot and medial foot on the left side, decreased temperature sensation on the left side, absent sensation at the flap and hypersensitivity at the foot. The treating physician reported that the injured worker continues to have "stabbing, burning" pain in both lower extremities, left greater than right. The treating physician prescribed Derma Tran compound cream, #2 now under review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Derma tran compound cream, #2: Upheld

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

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

Decision rationale: The California chronic pain medical treatment guidelines section on topical analgesics states: Recommended as an option as indicated below. Largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Primarily recommended for neuropathic pain when trials of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. (Namaka, 2004) These agents are applied locally to painful areas with advantages that include lack of systemic side effects, absence of drug interactions, and no need to titrate. (Colombo, 2006) Many agents are compounded as monotherapy or in combination for pain control (including NSAIDs, opioids, capsaicin, local anesthetics, antidepressants, glutamate receptor antagonists, "-adrenergic receptor agonist, adenosine, cannabinoids, cholinergic receptor agonists," agonists, prostanoids, bradykinin, adenosine triphosphate, biogenic amines, and nerve growth factor). (Argoff, 2006) There is little to no research to support the use of many of these agents. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. The requested medication contains ingredients, which are not indicated per the California MTUS for topical analgesic use. Therefore the request is not certified. Therefore, the requested treatment is not medically necessary.