

Case Number:	CM14-0166692		
Date Assigned:	10/13/2014	Date of Injury:	09/27/2011
Decision Date:	11/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/09/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesia, has a subspecialty in Acupuncture & Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

48year old male injured worker date of injury was 9/27/11 with related back, neck, and headache pain. Per progress report dated 8/20/14, the injured worker report pain control with his current medication regimen for the most part, keeping the pain reduced in comparison to no medication management. He rated his low back pain 7/10 with medication. Physical exam findings were not documented. Treatment to date has included pool therapy, H-Wave unit, injections, and medication management. The date of UR decision was 9/24/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lidocaine ointment x 100 with 1 refill: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111-112.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines p112 states "Lidocaine Indication: Neuropathic pain Recommended for localized peripheral pain after there has been evidence of a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as Gabapentin or Lyrica). Topical Lidocaine, in the formulation of a dermal patch

(Lidoderm) has been designated for orphan status by the FDA for neuropathic pain. Lidoderm is also used off-label for diabetic neuropathy. No other commercially approved topical formulations of Lidocaine (whether creams, lotions or gels) are indicated for neuropathic pain. The medical records submitted for review do not indicate that there has been a trial of first-line therapy (tri-cyclic or SNRI antidepressants or an AED). There is also no diagnosis of diabetic neuropathy or post-herpetic neuralgia. Furthermore, the guidelines only recommend topical Lidocaine in the form of a dermal patch. The request is not medically necessary.