

Case Number:	CM14-0172248		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	01/01/2013
Decision Date:	11/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/17/2014

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 Occupational 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:

This is a 52-year-old female with a 1/1/13 date of injury. She was injured due to an allergic reaction to substances she uses at work. According to a handwritten and largely illegible progress report dated 8/22/14, the patient complained of persistent rash of hand. The provider recommends excimer laser treatment to spare steroid use. Objective findings: open wounds of hands, pruritis. Diagnostic impression: atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis and eczema. Treatment to date: medication management. A UR decision dated 9/17/14 denied the request for 16 Excimer laser treatments. The cited literature states that excimer and pulsed dye laser treatments are experimental and investigational for the treatment of atopic dermatitis because of insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed literature.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

16 Excimer Laser Treatments: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Laser treatment for Psoriasis and Other Selected Skin Conditions. http://www.aetna.com/cpb/medical/data/500_599/0577.html.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical

Evidence, Aetna Clinical Policy Bulletin, Laser Treatment for Psoriasis and Other Selected Skin Conditions.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and ODG do not address this issue. Aetna considers excimer and pulsed dye laser treatment medically necessary for persons with mild-to-moderate localized plaque psoriasis affecting 10 % or less of their body area who have failed to adequately respond to 3 or more months of topical treatments, including at least 3 of the following: Anthralin; Corticosteroids (e.g., betamethasone dipropionate ointment and fluocinonide cream); Keratolytic agents (e.g., lactic acid, salicylic acid, and urea); Retinoids (e.g., tazarotene); Tar preparations; and/or Vitamin D derivatives (e.g., calcipotriene). No more than 13 laser treatments per course and 3 courses per year are generally considered medically necessary. Aetna considers the excimer laser or pulsed dye laser experimental and investigational in the treatment of forms of psoriasis other than plaque psoriasis because of insufficient evidence in the peer-reviewed literature. However, in the present case, there is no documentation that the patient has failed to adequately respond to 3 or more months of topical treatments. In addition, there is no documentation that the patient has a diagnosis of psoriasis. Aetna considers laser treatment experimental and investigational for the treatment of atopic dermatitis. Furthermore, this is a request for 16 laser treatments, and Aetna guidelines do not support more than 13 laser treatments per course. Therefore, the request for 16 Excimer Laser Treatments is not medically necessary.