

Case Number:	CM14-0021219		
Date Assigned:	05/07/2014	Date of Injury:	03/20/2007
Decision Date:	09/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/20/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Connecticut. 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:

After careful review of the medical records provided, this is a 30 year old female with complaints of right upper extremity pain and numbness. The date of injury is 5/03/06 and the mechanism of injury was an impact injury involving pulling 3 carts moving backward when her left elbow struck an upright cart leading to her current condition. At the time of request for Medrox patches 5.00%/0.0375% quantity 30, there is documentation of subjective findings of upper extremity pain elbows, forearm, hands and objective findings of incisional scars over wrists, elbows/forearms, left 3rd finger, positive Tinel's sign bilateral cubital and right carpal tunnel, positive bilateral Phalen's sign. The diagnoses are chronic pain syndrome, peripheral neuropathy and tendinopathy. The treatment to date includes multiple hand/arm surgeries, medications, injections, and physical therapy. Medrox patch is a compounded topical analgesic that is a combination of Methyl Salicylate 5%, Menthol 5%, And Capsaicin 0.0375% which is indicated for minor aches and pain related to muscle strain/spasm. Per California MTUS- Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, there is no evidence for the use of most compounded topical drugs. The only drug of that combination that has evidence based medical benefit are topical salicylates. Capsaicin is also acceptable but the current recommended doses are a maximum concentration of .025%. Menthol is not a drug that is supported by the current medical guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MEDROX PATCHES 5.00%/0.0375% DAY SUPPLY 30 QUANTITY 30: 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): 111-113.

Decision rationale: Medrox patch is a compounded topical analgesic that is a combination of Methyl Salicylate 5%, Menthol 5%, and Capsaicin 0.0375% which is indicated for minor aches and pain related to muscle strain/spasm. Per California MTUS-Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, there is no evidence for the use of most compounded topical drugs. The only drug of that combination that has evidence based medical benefit are topical salicylates. Capsaicin is also acceptable but the current recommended doses are a maximum concentration of .025%. Menthol is not a drug that is supported by the current medical guidelines. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.