

Case Number:	CM14-0212060		
Date Assigned:	01/02/2015	Date of Injury:	09/12/2011
Decision Date:	02/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/17/2014

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. 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: Georgia, California, Texas

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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:

Injured worker (IW) sustained an industrial injury low back and left shoulder injury on 09/12/11. Documented medications include tramadol, naproxen, Flexeril, and Methoderm topical.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective Request for the Methoderm Ointment 120gm for date of service 10/10/14:
Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Salicylate topicals Page(s): 105.

Decision rationale: The active ingredients of Methoderm gel include methyl salicylate 15% and menthol 10%. While MTUS supports the use of topical salicylates, comparable formulations are available in over-the-counter products such as BenGay (camphor 4%/menthol 10%/methyl salicylate 30% in Bengay Ultra Strength). It has not been established that there is any necessity for this specific brand name drug such as Methoderm. There is no known

advantage to use of Mentherm topical over an over-the-counter formulation with the same ingredients. Therefore, Retrospective Request for the Mentherm Ointment 120gm for date of service 10/10/14 is not medically necessary.