

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0214464		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/02/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/02/2008
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/28/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/04/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/22/2014

### 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: California  
 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:

This injured worker's date of injury is 05/02/2008. This patient receives treatment for headaches, chronic neck, and upper extremities pain from repetitive motion involved in data entry. A cervical MRI showed some cervical canal stenosis. An EMG showed an S1 radiculopathy. There were two operations. On 04/24/2009 the patient underwent a lateral epicondylar release and on 08/22/2014 the patient underwent an anterior cervical microdiscectomy. Prescription medications include Voltaren SR, orphenadrine, ondansetron, quazepam, tramadol, ketoprofen, and two compounded analgesic agents, which are the subject of this review.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Lidocaine/ Hyaluronic patch 6%/0.2% #120 with 2 refills:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Lidocaine Page(s): 56-57.

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

**Decision rationale:** Topical analgesics are considered experimental in use, because clinical trials have failed to show efficacy. In addition if a compounded product contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended, then that compounded product cannot be recommended. Lidocaine may be medically indicated to treat localized peripheral pain after a trial of a first-line drug (a tricyclic, SNRI, or an AED) has failed. Lidoderm, which is the only FDA approved formulation which is used, off-label, to treat diabetic neuropathy. There is no documentation to support topical Lidocaine. Hyaluronic acid is not medically indicated for any medical condition in its topical form. This compounded agent is not medically indicated. Therefore, this request is not medically necessary.

**Flurbiprofen/Capsaicin Patch 10%/0.025% #120 with 2 refills:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** Topical analgesics are considered experimental in use, because clinical trials have failed to show efficacy. In addition if a compounded product contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended, then that compounded product cannot be recommended. Flurbiprofen is an NSAID. NSAIDs are not medically indicated for any condition in their topical form. Capsaicin has shown some benefit in treating some cases of osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, and chronic non-specific back pain. This compounded product is not medically indicated. Therefore, this request is not medically necessary.