

Case Number:	CM14-0052218		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	06/29/2006
Decision Date:	01/23/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/21/2014

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 Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 58-year-old female with a 6/29/06 date of injury. At the time (4/15/14) of the Decision for Compound: Methoderm (methyl salicylate/menthol) 120gm, there is documentation of subjective (neck, mid back, and low pain associated with burning sensation and sensitivity to touch over the upper extremities) and objective (limited range of motion of the cervical and lumbar spine, 3/5 motor strength of upper extremities, intact sensation, muscle guarding noted over the thoracic paraspinal musculature, and negative straight leg raising test) findings, current diagnoses (herniated nucleus pulposus of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spines), and treatment to date (medications (including ongoing treatment with Methoderm)). There is no documentation of neuropathic pain when trial of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed; and functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Methoderm cream use to date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Compound: Methoderm (methyl salicylate/menthol) 120gm: 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 based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20 and <http://www.drugs.com/cdi/menthoderm-cream.html>

Decision rationale: Medical Treatment Guideline identifies Menthoderm cream as a topical analgesic containing Methyl Salicylate and Menthol. MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines identifies documentation of neuropathic pain when trial of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of topical analgesics. MTUS-Definitions identifies that any treatment intervention should not be continued in the absence of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications or medical services. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of herniated nucleus pulposus of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spines. However, there is no documentation of neuropathic pain when trial of antidepressants and anticonvulsants have failed. In addition, given documentation of ongoing treatment with Menthoderm, there is no documentation of functional benefit or improvement as a reduction in work restrictions; an increase in activity tolerance; and/or a reduction in the use of medications as a result of Menthoderm cream use to date. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Compound: Menthoderm (methyl salicylate/menthol) 120gm is not medically necessary.