

Case Number:	CM15-0006935		
Date Assigned:	01/26/2015	Date of Injury:	05/07/2011
Decision Date:	03/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/13/2015

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: Massachusetts

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

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 52 year old female sustained an industrial injury on 5/7/11. She subsequently reports head, cervical spine and left shoulder pain. Diagnoses include cervical disc displacement, internal derangement of shoulder and thoracic sprain. Medications prescribed include Tramadol, Soma and Motrin. The UR decision dated 12/11/14 non-certified Salon Pas Patches #60. The Salon Pas Patches #60 were denied based on CA MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Salon Pas Patches #60: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines (1) Medications for chronic pain, p60 (2) Topical Analgesics, p111-113 Page(s): 60, 111-113.

Decision rationale: The claimant is more than three years status post work-related injury and continues to be treated for complaints including left shoulder pain. Medications include Motrin. Salonpas is a combination of menthol and methyl salicylate. Menthol and methyl salicylate are

used as a topical analgesic in over the counter medications such as Ben-Gay or Icy Hot. They work by first cooling the skin then warming it up, providing a topical anesthetic and analgesic effect which may be due to interference with transmission of pain signals through nerves. Guidelines address the use of capsaicin which is believed to work through a similar mechanism. It is recommended as an option in patients who have not responded or are intolerant to other treatments. In this case, the claimant's medications include the oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication Motrin without report of adverse effect. The need to prescribe two non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications is not established. Guidelines also recommend that when prescribing medications only one medication should be given at a time. By prescribing a multiple combination medication, in addition to the increased risk of adverse side effects, it would not be possible to determine whether any derived benefit is due to a particular component. Therefore, this medication is not medically necessary.