

Case Number:	CM15-0119546		
Date Assigned:	07/06/2015	Date of Injury:	04/03/2013
Decision Date:	07/31/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/27/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/19/2015

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: California

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:

The injured worker is a 50 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on April 3, 2013. He has reported injury to the wrist and has been diagnosed with acquired musculoskeletal deformity of unspecified site, sprain of carpal of wrist, synovitis and tenosynovitis unspecified, and osteoarthritis localized primary forearm. Treatment has consisted of medications, medical imaging, surgery, and splinting. Upon examination he had four portholes into the dorsum of the wrist. Sutures were intact with no signs of infection. Range of motion was not tested. The treatment request included scar cream.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Scar cream: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Chung VQ, Kelley L, Marra D, Jiang SB (February 2006). "Onion extract gel versus petrolatum emollient on new surgical scars: prospective double-blinded study". *Dermatol Surg* 32 (2): 193?7.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines and ODG do not address the use of scar cream. The medical reports do not explain the specifics of the scar cream prescribed, such as brand name, ingredients or quantity. There are several over the counter scar creams and gels available. One active ingredient in scar creams is an onion extract. Per the cited reference, there is no evidence of any benefit of onion extract over petrolatum emollient on new surgical scars. It is not likely that the scar cream requested will be of any significant benefit. The medical necessity of this request has not been established. The request for scar cream is determined to not be medically necessary.