

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0175031		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/16/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/01/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/10/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/07/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/04/2015

### 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: Texas, New York, 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 applicant is a represented 59-year-old who has filed a claim for chronic low back pain (LBP) reportedly associated with an industrial injury of August 1, 2014. In a Utilization Review report dated August 7, 2015, the claims administrator failed to approve a request for topical LidoPro cream. The claims administrator referenced a June 17, 2015 office visit and an associated RFA form of August 3, 2015 in its determination. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On February 11, 2015, the applicant reported ongoing complaints of low back pain. Physical therapy, a lumbar support, and work restrictions were endorsed. The applicant was using Motrin and Flexeril, it was reported on this date. It was suggested that the applicant's employer was unable to accommodate the limitations in question. On March 4, 2015, the treating provider again stated that the applicant would likely remain off of work, on total temporary disability, as her employer was likely unable to accommodate a rather proscriptive 5-pound lifting limitation proposed on this date. On August 6, 2015, the applicant reported ongoing complaints of low back pain. The applicant's medications included Butrans, aspirin, diltiazem, hydrochlorothiazide, Motrin, Mevacor, Prilosec, and QVAR. The attending provider stated that he would add Lidoderm patches to the mix.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Lidopro analgesic cream 121mg for pain control, #2 bottles: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Capsaicin, topical. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation LIDOPRO (capsaicin, lidocaine, menthol, and ...  
DailyMeddailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/archives/fdaDrugInfo.cfm?archiveid...Dec 1, 2012 - LIDOPRO- capsaicin, lidocaine, menthol and methyl salicylate ointment.

**Decision rationale:** No, the request for topical LidoPro cream was not medically necessary, medically appropriate, or indicated here. LidoPro, per the National Library of Medicine (NLM), is an amalgam of capsaicin, lidocaine, menthol, and methyl salicylate. However, page 28 of the MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines notes that topical capsaicin, i.e., the primary ingredient in the LidoPro amalgam, is recommended only as a last-line agent, for applicants who have not responded to or are intolerant of other treatments. Here, however, the applicant's usage of numerous other analgesic medications to include Motrin, Flexeril, Butrans, etc., effectively obviated the need for the capsaicin-containing LidoPro compound in question. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.