

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0046368		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/18/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/03/1999
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/02/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/18/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/11/2015

### 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: Florida, Pennsylvania, Hawaii  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Dermatology

### 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 female who reported an injury on 05/03/1999 due to an unspecified mechanism of injury. The most recent clinical note provided was dated 10/21/2014. It was noted that the injured worker continued to have difficulties with shoulder pain. She stated that she had undergone a cardiac workup for the lower extremity edema and that her cardiac workup was within normal limits with no abnormalities. She also reportedly weaned herself off gabapentin and felt that the medication had contributed to her lower extremity edema as it improved after she stopped the medication. She also had concerns regarding chronic skin lesions. It was noted that they had discussed the possibility of evaluation with a plastic surgeon that specialized in skin grafting of dermatologic diseases. Her medications had included Percocet, gabapentin, and trazodone. She denied any neurological changes and stated that she continued to have knee and hip problems in addition to dizziness, which affected her ambulation as well as her balance. On examination, there was no cognitive slowing noted. She had multiple skin lesions on the forearms, chest, ear, and mid back. Right shoulder posterior aspect showed a large ecchymosis and discoloration beneath the skin and the skin was intact. There was mild edema and tenderness on palpation. Right shoulder range of motion was full and there was tenderness noted in the right occiput on palpation but no edema. Strength of the upper extremities was unchanged at a 4/5 bilaterally. Deep tendon reflexes were 1+ bilaterally equal and symmetric throughout. The cervical spine showed full range of motion for flexion, extension, rotation, and side bending. She was diagnosed with C7 radiculopathy, right shoulder pain, bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome, cervical disc disease, status post cervical fusion, and

status post right reverse total shoulder surgery. It was recommended that she consider a plastic surgery specialty evaluation for her ongoing skin lesions. The treatment plan was for glyderm peels for the face 1 every 3 to 4 weeks x8.

### **IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES**

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

**Glyderm peels for the face, 1 every 3-4 weeks x 8: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Annals of dermatology, Chronic Pruritis, Feb 2011.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: <http://www.glydermusa.com/>.

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS/ACOEM/Official Disability Guidelines do not address GlyDerm peels. Further research on glydermusa.com indicates that this product contains glycolic acid and that it is used to make the skin feel soft and is used to help maintain healthy beautiful skin. It is also noted to contain vitamin C. The documentation submitted for review does not state a clear rationale for the medical necessity of this request. While it is noted that the injured worker was noted to have lesions on certain parts of the body, there is no indication that the GlyDerm peels are used for this indication. Also, 8 GlyDerm peels would not be supported without a re-evaluation of the injured worker after the first peel to show that it was effective in decreasing the injured worker's lesions. Furthermore, the skin lesions were not noted to be on the face. Therefore, the request is not supported. As such, the request is not medically necessary.