

Case Number:	CM15-0048973		
Date Assigned:	03/20/2015	Date of Injury:	09/18/1987
Decision Date:	05/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/27/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/16/2015

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: Connecticut, California, Virginia
 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:

This 66-year-old male injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 09/18/1987. The diagnoses were lumbosacral neuritis and lumbago. The injured worker had been treated with medications, TENS unit, and physical therapy. On 2/22/2015, the treating provider reported dull, sharp, burning, throbbing back pain with numbness and tingling rated 7 to 8/10. The injured worker reported weakness to the legs, with increased tone with trigger points in the lumbar muscles, radiating to the buttocks along with reduced range of motion. The straight leg raise was positive. The treatment plan included Salonpas pads and Terocin patch.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Salonpas pads #40: 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): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The MTUS states there is little to no research to support the use of many compounded agents. Any compounded product that contains at least one drug (or drug class) that is not recommended is not recommended. The use of these compounded agents requires knowledge of the specific analgesic effect of each agent and how it will be useful for the specific therapeutic goal required. The MTUS states that NSAIDs in topical formulations are not supported by evidence for use in spine, hip or shoulder. Salonpas pads are unlikely to be the best treatment modality in this case. Because topical NSAIDs are not recommended by the MTUS for patients with back pain, the request is not medically necessary at this time.

Terocin patch #30: 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): 111-113.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines on Topical Analgesics describe topical treatment as an option; however, topicals are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Terocin contains the following active ingredients: Lidocaine, Capsaicin, Menthol, and Methyl Salicylate. The MTUS states specifically that any compound product that contains at least one drug (or class) that is not recommended is not recommended. Lidocaine is not recommended as a topical lotion or gel for neuropathic pain, categorizing the requested compound as not recommended by the guidelines. The lack of evidence to support use of topical compounds like the one requested, coupled with the lack of evidence for failed treatment by other modalities, makes the requested treatment not medically necessary.