

Case Number:	CM15-0093014		
Date Assigned:	05/19/2015	Date of Injury:	02/26/1998
Decision Date:	06/19/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/08/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/14/2015

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: New Jersey, Alabama, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular 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 year old 75 male, who sustained an industrial injury on 02/216/1998. On provider visit, dated 04/15/2014 the injured worker has reported denied right knee pain. The injured worker does complain of swelling. On examination of the right knee, 1+ effusion was noted and a decreased range of motion, with 2+ crepitus noted. The diagnoses have included degenerative joint disease and status right knee arthroscopic surgery 06/26/1998. Treatment to date has included daily exercise and medications. The provider requested MBR Retrospective request for the medication prescribed (Terocin duration and frequency unknown) dispensed on 3/31/15 to 4/30/2015.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MBR Retrospective request for the medication prescribed (Terocin duration and frequency unknown) dispensed on 3/31/15 to 4/30/2015: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical analgesics Page(s): 111-113.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Topical Analgesics Page(s): 111.

Decision rationale: Terocin lotion is formed by the combination of methyl salicylate, capsaicin, and menthol. According to MTUS, in Chronic Pain Medical Treatment, guidelines section Topical Analgesics (page 111), topical analgesics are largely experimental in use with few randomized controlled trials to determine efficacy or safety. Many agents are combined to other pain medications for pain control. There is limited research to support the use of many of these agents. Furthermore, according to MTUS guidelines, any compounded product that contains at least one drug or drug class that is not recommended. Terocin patch contains capsaicin a topical analgesic not recommended by MTUS. Furthermore, there is no documentation of failure or intolerance of first line oral medications for the treatment of pain. There is no documentation that the patient developed a neuropathic pain. Based on the above Terocin is not medically necessary.