

Case Number:	CM15-0097700		
Date Assigned:	05/28/2015	Date of Injury:	02/27/2006
Decision Date:	07/02/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/20/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/20/2015

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 York, Tennessee
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Emergency 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 47-year-old man sustained an industrial injury on 2/27/2006. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Evaluations include lumbar spine provocative discography dated 2/3/2010 and lumbar spine MRIs dated 10/28/2009 and 11/1/2007. Diagnoses include lumbar myoligamentous injury with facet joint hypertrophy, lumbosacral herniated nucleus pulposus with central foraminal stenosis, left lower extremity radiculopathy, reactionary depression/anxiety, coronary artery disease, uncontrolled severe hypertension, medication induced gastritis, and right lateral epicondylitis. Treatment has included oral and topical medications and self-directed home exercise program. Physician notes dated 4/1/2015 show continued complaints of low back pain with radiation down the bilateral lower extremities. Recommendations include intrathecal morphine pump insertion, OxyContin, Roxicodone, Norco, Soma, Lidoderm, Prilosec, Prozac, LidoPro, increase Neurontin, lumbar spine MRI, and orthopedic spine surgery consultation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lidoderm Patch QTY: 30 (30 day supply): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Lidoderm (lidocaine patch), Topical Analgesics.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Pain Interventions and Guidelines Page(s): 112. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain Lidoderm (lidocaine patch).

Decision rationale: Lidocaine is recommended for localized peripheral pain after the evidence of a trial for first-line therapy, such as an antidepressant or antiepileptic drug. It is only FDA approved for the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia. The guidelines state that further research is needed to recommend this treatment for chronic neuropathic pain. Criteria for use of Lidoderm patches: (a) recommended for a trial if there is evidence of localized pain that is consistent with a neuropathic etiology. (b) There should be evidence of a trial of first-line neuropathy medications (tri-cyclic or SNRI anti-depressants or an AED such as Gabapentin or Lyrica). (c) This medication is not generally recommended for treatment of osteoarthritis or treatment of myofascial pain/trigger points. (d) An attempt to determine a neuropathic component of pain should be made if the plan is to apply this medication to areas of pain that is generally secondary to non-neuropathic mechanisms (such as the knee or isolated axial low back pain). One recognized method of testing is the use of the Neuropathic Pain Scale. (e) The area for treatment should be designated as well as number of patches planned (f) A Trial of patch treatment is recommended for a short-term period (no more than four weeks). (g) It is generally recommended that no other medication changes be made during the trial period. (h) Outcomes should be reported at the end of the trial including improvements in pain and function, and decrease in the use of other medications. If improvements cannot be determined, the medication should be discontinued. (i) Continued outcomes should be intermittently measured and if improvement does not continue, lidocaine patches should be discontinued. In this case the patient has had been using Lidoderm patches since February 2015 and had not obtained analgesia. If improvements cannot be determined, Lidoderm patches should be discontinued. The request is not medically necessary.