

Case Number:	CM13-0010757		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	07/05/2013
Decision Date:	02/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/25/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/14/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in Virginia. 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 physician 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

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 is a 61year old woman who had a left ankle varicosity injury resulting in bruising, swelling, and redness. On July 5, 2013 she saw [REDACTED] who diagnosed her with varicose veins and skin ulcer of the ankle, instructed her to use sports stockings, and applied duoderm. On July 8, 2013, in follow up, [REDACTED] noted improvement and recommended no prolonged standing as well leg elevation, as the patient worked at [REDACTED]. The patient saw [REDACTED] on July 13, 2013 with improvement noted on his exam as well. He recommended Zostrix cream and athletic socks. On July 16, 2013 she was seen by [REDACTED] for leg pain and ulcer of her left leg. Wound care was recommended and possible ultrasound of her lower left leg, as well as modified work duty. [REDACTED] noted chronic varicose veins and recurrent leg ulcers and then ordered an ultrasound. The patient saw [REDACTED] on July 19, 2013 in follow up. [REDACTED] recommend wound care and possible general surgery consultation, prescribing Gabapentin 300mg as well. The patient saw [REDACTED] on July 23, 2013, August 9, 2013 and August 23, 2013, and he continued Gabapentin and wound care. She saw a surgeon, [REDACTED] for a consultation regarding varicose veins, who recommended and ultrasound of her lower left leg, which was done on August 20, 2013. This was negative for DVT (Deep Vein Thrombosis).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Vascular Lower Extremity Venous Left: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Knee and Leg (updated 06/06/13).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Current Problems in Diagnostic Radiology 2005 March-April 34(2):51-62 and <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/1084813-workup>

Decision rationale: The Physician Reviewer's decision rationale: The patient had evidence of chronic venous stasis, noted by multiple providers. This was thought to lead to stasis dermatitis and, as part of the work up, to rule out DVT, a Doppler ultrasound was ordered. There are no specific guidelines in MTUS, however this is widely accepted clinical practice and standard of care. It is medically needed for this patient.