

Case Number:	CM13-0011963		
Date Assigned:	04/28/2014	Date of Injury:	07/09/2012
Decision Date:	06/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/16/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/15/2013

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. 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/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:

The patient is an employee of [REDACTED] and has submitted a claim for right foot and right ankle pain associated with an industrial injury date of July 9, 2012. Treatment to date has included medications, orthotics, physical therapy, chiropractic treatment, and right ankle arthroscopy. Medical records from 2013 were reviewed, which showed that the patient complained of constant right foot and ankle pain, rated 10/10, described as a numbing and burning. There was discoloration with red, blue, and purple coloring in the right foot and toes as well as muscle spasms in the first and second digits of the right foot. On physical examination, the patient presented with crutches and was non-weight-bearing on the right foot. Neurological examination of the bilateral lower extremities showed slight atrophy of the right calf with skin changes with subtle pale swollen appearance of the right foot and ankle. There was hypersensitivity in the right foot and ankle with dysesthesias on palpation over the lateral aspect of the knee and upper leg. Ankle jerks were 1+. Examination of the right foot showed that it was held in a relative plantar flexion. Well-healed scars were noted on the ankle. There was mild swelling at the ankle and toes with decreased prominence of the extensor creases. There was also some generalized swelling over the dorsal aspect of the foot with decreased prominence of the superficial veins. Temperature testing revealed a relative coolness on the right. There was hypersensitivity with allodynia about the top of the foot extending to the toes and ankle up to the distal lower leg. There was also tenderness to palpation at the ankle and there was minimal range of motion associated with pain. An x-ray of bilateral ankles dated November 21, 2013 showed a normal right ankle when compared to the left. Utilization review from July 16, 2013 denied the request for triple phase bone scan for the right ankle because there were no findings of complex regional pain syndrome. An appeal dated July 23, 2013 stated that the request for a triple-phase bone scan was made because the patient had significant clinical signs and symptoms of RSD,

including trophic changes on his skin, limited range of motion; and one of the diagnostic tests for RSD is a triple-phase bone scan.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TRIPLE BASE BONE SCAN OF THE RIGHT ANKLE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 372-374.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Ankle and Foot Chapter, Bone Scan (Imaging).

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS does not specifically address bone scan of the ankle; however, the Official Disability Guidelines state that bone scans may be utilized to rule out tumor, stress fractures in chronic cases, infection, and complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) if plain films are not diagnostic. In this case, the request for a bone scan was made to rule out CRPS, and the medical records showed that the patient clearly had signs and symptoms of CRPS. Furthermore, an x-ray of bilateral ankles dated November 21, 2013 was non-diagnostic. However, the medical records also indicated that the patient has been seen by a physiatrist who treats CRPS and has already been diagnosed with the said condition. The patient has also begun treatment for CRPS with the physiatrist; thus, there is no clear indication for further imaging studies since the patient is already being treated for the condition that is in question. Therefore, the request for triple phase bone scan of the right ankle is not medically necessary.