

Case Number:	CM13-0013735		
Date Assigned:	09/26/2013	Date of Injury:	03/01/1999
Decision Date:	08/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/06/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/19/2013

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 Podiatric Surgery, and is licensed to practice in New York. 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:

According to the enclosed information, the original date of injury for this patient was 3/1/99. The patient subsequently underwent right forefoot reconstruction in June 2012. On 6/11/2013 the patient was noted to have pain and stiffness to the first metatarsal phalangeal joint (MPJ) of the right side. Patient is undergoing physical therapy. Patient was seen again on 7/23/2013 for evaluation of painful and stiff first MPJ of the right side. A cortisone injection was given to the first MPJ of the right side, joint fusion was discussed as a future possibility, and orthotics were recommended.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CUSTOM ORTHOTIC RIGHT FOOT: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 371.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 371.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines state that rigid orthotics may be used for patients that suffer from painful plantar fasciitis and or metatarsalgia. This patient has neither of these

diagnoses. The physical exam does not indicate the patient is suffering with heel pain or painful metatarsals, but rather a painful joint. As such, the request is not medically necessary.