

Case Number:	CM13-0017318		
Date Assigned:	03/03/2014	Date of Injury:	02/10/2012
Decision Date:	04/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/15/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/27/2013

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 Family Medicine and is licensed to practice in Utah. 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 a 41 year old male. The patient's date of injury is Feb 10, 2012, according to the clinical documents. The mechanism of injury was a puncture wound, through a tennis shoe with subsequent infections and evidence of cellulitis. The patient's treatments have included incisions and debridement. The physical exam findings show tenderness to palpation of the right great toe, with compression of interphalangeal joint. There is tenderness also noted on the right 1st metatarsal joint plantar aspect. Medications include, but are not limited to, Flexeril and Tramadol.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RIGHT GREAT TOE WOUND DEBRIDEMENT: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.wheelsonline.com/ortho/infectionsofthefoot>, Right great toe wound debridement.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Wheel's Online Orthopedic Reference, infections of the foot

Decision rationale: MTUS treatment guidelines do not specifically mention wound care or debridement. Other guidelines were used. The guideline used was Wheelessonline.com. The request is for debridement of the right great toe. Wheeless guidelines state the following: that incision and debridement are required in most situations, such as this case. The request as is, has no mention of further surgical intervention on this toe, the request therefore is for debridement of the great toe only. According to the clinical documentation provided and current MTUS guidelines; debridement is indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.