

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0019169		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/05/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/02/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/30/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/21/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/03/2013

### 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 Internal Medicine 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:

The claimant is a 51 year old female who sustained an industrial work injury on 05/02/2009. Her diagnoses include left rotator cuff tear s/p arthroscopic surgery in 2010, and neck pain. She has had continued neck and left arm pain. On exam, she had pain with cervical range of motion decreased grip strength of the left hand. Sensory exam revealed left C8> C6 and C7 hypesthesia. She underwent a C5/6 TDR on 08/ 13/2013 and was requested to have a Vascutherm intermittent PCO for DVT prophylaxis.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**A Vascutherm intermittent PCO for DVT:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medscape Internal Medicine 2013: Intermittent Pneumatic Compression Devices.

**Decision rationale:** There was no medical indication for the requested vascutherm intermittent pneumatic compression device. Intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC) boots are generally accepted as a method for preventing deep venous thromboses (DVT) and complications of

venous stasis in persons after trauma, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, or who for other reasons are unable to walk. The claimant has no difficulties with ambulation. Anti-embolism stockings can be worn to prevent thromboembolism after the surgical procedure. Compliance with gradient compression stockings has been shown to be essential to their effectiveness; the stockings do not work unless they are worn. There are no studies, however, that have demonstrated that compliance with IPC devices is significantly greater than compliance with gradient compression stockings. Medical necessity for the requested item has not been established. The requested item is not medically necessary