

Case Number:	CM13-0021127		
Date Assigned:	10/11/2013	Date of Injury:	06/24/2002
Decision Date:	02/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/29/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/06/2013

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 Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in Connecticut, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. 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:

The claimant is a 41-year-old gentleman who sustained an injury on 06/24/02. Diagnosis was that of a chondromalacia sprain of the ankle. Previous treatments of viscosupplementation and therapy were noted with benefit.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Euflexxa injections (series of 3) to the right ankle: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Ankle & Foot Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 369. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Ankle chapter.

Decision rationale: Euflexxa injections into the right ankle are not medically indicated or appropriate. There have been no peer review journals or ethical clearance for the application of Euflexxa within the ankle. Therefore, the requested Euflexxa injections are not medically necessary or appropriate.