

Case Number:	CM13-0022551		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2013	Date of Injury:	11/12/1999
Decision Date:	03/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/10/2013

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 California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working least at 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:

This is a 55-year-old right hand dominant male. The medical records document care directed at both the shoulder and the elbow.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Cortisone Injection to the Left Basilar Joint w/ 0.5cc of Kenalog and 0.5cc of Lidocaine:
Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints.

Decision rationale: A base of the thumb joint injection appears to be reasonable and appropriate treatment in that he has had left thumb pain by gripping and grasping with no improvement of anti-inflammatory and clinically has pain over the right basal joint and positive grind test. It is reasonable to attempt injection of cortisone and treatment of this apparent degenerative joint based on the records reviewed.