

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0025193		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/20/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/03/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/06/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/16/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/16/2013

### 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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

Having reviewed the progress reports as summarized above, I do not believe the treater is keeping track of all the information to allow for adequate management of the patient's right shoulder issues. The treater does not have a copy of the MRI report, does not know exactly when this was done. On September 2013 report, he indicated that an MRI was done 6 months ago, but on 2/5/13 report, the patient was seen by an orthopedist who reviewed the MRI and recommended repeat surgery for re-tear. The patient's prior right shoulder surgery date is not provided either. There certainly is no reason to repeat the MRI of the right shoulder when one was already performed. There are no guidelines that are going to support repeating these diagnostic studies because the treater is not keeping track of what was done and when. The treater is under the impression that the patient's treatments are not progressing due to lack of an updated MRI, but as of Feb 2013, the patient did have an updated MRI and re-tear of the SLAP and rotator cuff were identified for which the orthopedist has recommend another surgery for right shoulder. ACOEM guidelines do not support routine diagnostics unless there is a red flag and suspected serious shoulder condition. In this situation, the patient's shoulder condition is well known with re-tear of the SLAP and rotator cuff. There is no reason to repeat the study when one was already done. Recommendation is for denial.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**MRI for the right shoulder:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, TWC, Online Edition, Shoulder Chapter, MRI.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 207-208..

**Decision rationale:** Having reviewed the progress reports as summarized above, I do not believe the treater is keeping track of all the information to allow for adequate management of the patient's right shoulder issues. The treater does not have a copy of the MRI report, does not know exactly when this was done. On September 2013 report, he indicated that an MRI was done 6 months ago, but on 2/5/13 report, the patient was seen by an orthopedist who reviewed the MRI and recommended repeat surgery for re-tear. The patient's prior right shoulder surgery date is not provided either. There certainly is no reason to repeat the MRI of the right shoulder when one was already performed. There are no guidelines that are going to support repeating these diagnostic studies because the treater is not keeping track of what was done and when. The treater is under the impression that the patient's treatments are not progressing due to lack of an updated MRI, but as of Feb 2013, the patient did have an updated MRI and re-tear of the SLAP and rotator cuff were identified for which the orthopedist has recommend another surgery for right shoulder. ACOEM guidelines do not support routine diagnostics unless there is a red flag and suspected serious shoulder condition. In this situation, the patient's shoulder condition is well known with re-tear of the SLAP and rotator cuff. There is no reason to repeat the study when one was already done. Recommendation is for denial.