

Case Number:	CM13-0025677		
Date Assigned:	06/06/2014	Date of Injury:	01/02/2013
Decision Date:	07/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/28/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/17/2013

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 Emergency Medicine, and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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:

This patient is a 70 year-old with a date of injury of 1/2/13. A progress report associated with the request for services, dated 7/18/13, identified subjective complaints of left hand pain of six months duration. Objective findings included tenderness to palpation over the first carpometacarpal joint. Strength was reduced in the hand. There was full range of motion of the metacarpal and phalangeal joints. Diagnoses included hand pain and carpometacarpal arthrosis. Treatment has included Tylenol.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CUSTOM LONG SPICA SPLINT: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 271-273.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 272. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The MTUS states that splinting is a first line conservative treatment; however, prolonged splinting can lead to weakness. The Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) state that splints can ease the pain of arthritis. Studies involved the intermittent use of custom-

made rigid long and short splints. If properly applied, the evidence does indicate value in splinting certain wrist conditions including arthritis. Therefore, the record documents the medical necessity for a custom long spica splint.