

Case Number:	CM13-0027402		
Date Assigned:	11/22/2013	Date of Injury:	01/03/2012
Decision Date:	01/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/18/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/20/2013

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 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 patient is a 55 year old female who reported an injury on 01/03/2012. The mechanism of injury was the patient twisting her ankle and hitting the wall. Review of the patient clinical record revealed the patient underwent right calcaneus osteotomy with lateralization, right sural nerve decompression with excision of 3 cutaneous branches that led into the scar in lateral ankle, right calcaneus hardware removal, and right tarsal tunnel release on 10/10/2013 with no complications. The patient ambulated with a cane prior to the mentioned surgery. Post-surgery the patient was non-weight bearing for some time and then advanced to a CAM walker. There was no post-surgical clinical documentation provided in the medical record.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Preoperative medical clearance: 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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back Chapter, Preoperative testing, general

Decision rationale: California MTUS / ACOEM do not address preoperative clearance or testing. Official Disability Guidelines states the decision to order preoperative tests should be guided by the patient's clinical history, comorbidities, and physical examination findings. Patients with signs or symptoms of active cardiovascular disease should be evaluated with appropriate testing, regardless of their preoperative status. Electrocardiography is recommended for patients undergoing high-risk surgery and those undergoing intermediate-risk surgeries who have additional risk factors. The patient does not have any major medical conditions and/or illnesses provided in the medical record. The surgical procedure being performed is not a high risk surgery. As such, the request for preoperative clearance (for an approved right 1st calcaneus removal surgery) is non-certified.

Post-operative home health services four hours a day for four weeks: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home Health.

Decision rationale: California MTUS states home health is recommended only for otherwise medical treatment for patients who are homebound, on a part-time or intermittent basis. The patient has been approved for two weeks of the requested service. There is no objective clinical information provided in the medical record to support or suggest the need for home health services beyond the approved time of 2 weeks. As such, the request for postop home health services four hours a day for four weeks is non-certified.