MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM13-0028014		
Date Assigned:	11/22/2013	Date of Injury:	06/05/2012
Decision Date:	02/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/12/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/23/2013

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 Internal Medicine, has a subspecialty in Pulmonary Disease 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.

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 33-year-old female who reported an injury on 06/05/2012. Her mechanism of injury was not provided within the medical records. Her symptoms are noted to include right foot pain. Her assessment list is noted to include mononeuritis of a lower limb, nerve entrapment of the cutaneous nerve at sinus tarsi right, and localized osteoarthritis. She was noted to receive diagnostic steroid injections and aspiration of the ankle.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Synovial fluid analysis: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation US National Library of Medicine/National Institutes of Health regarding synovial fluid analysis

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Ankle and foot, Injections.

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines, injections in the foot and ankle are under study, as there is limited quality evidence for these procedures. In addition, there was no indication of an infection to warrant analysis of the aspirate. Therefore, diagnostic

injections and aspiration of the foot and ankle are not recommended at this point. For this reason, the requested service is non-certified