

Case Number:	CM13-0028398		
Date Assigned:	11/27/2013	Date of Injury:	01/10/2011
Decision Date:	08/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/06/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/24/2013

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 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 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 case involves a 66-year-old female, who was injured in a work-related accident on 1/10/11. The clinical records provided for review include a Utilization Review process certifying the need for a total ankle replacement surgery. There is a perioperative request for preoperative antibiotics in the form of Ancef as well as need for Vancomycin if an allergy to Penicillin is present. Review of the claimant's previous records do not indicate a drug allergy. The specific request in this case is in regard to a standard order for preoperative antibiotics prior to the claimant's certified ankle surgery.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Preoperative medication: if weight is greater than 80kg with penicillin allergy, 1 gram Vancomycin prior to surgery QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation
<http://www.guidelines.gov/content.aspx?id=24226&search=pre-op+clearance>.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Treatment in Worker's Compensation, 18th Edition, 2013 Updates: infectious procedure - Intravenous (IV) Antibiotics.

Decision rationale: Based on the Official Disability Guidelines, the request for preoperative medication (antibiotics) in this case would not be indicated. The request in this case is for a standard order prior to operative intervention. The guidelines indicate that for prevention, peripheral intravenous (IV) catheters should not be left in for more than three days, for long-term therapy a peripherally inserted central catheter or other central line should be placed and appropriate central line protocols should be followed. Perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended, particularly for prosthetic joint insertion and management of compound fractures. The order was written if an allergy to Penicillin was present. The records already have certified the use of perioperative antibiotics in the form of Ancef. This individual has no indication of an allergy to Penicillin or Penicillin derivative. The request for this standard order that was written as part of surgical preoperative orders would, thus, not be indicated.