

Case Number:	CM13-0028566		
Date Assigned:	11/27/2013	Date of Injury:	06/20/2012
Decision Date:	01/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/13/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/25/2013

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, has a subspecialty in Shoulder and Elbow 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.

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 40-year-old male who sustained an occupational injury on 06/20/2012. The patient subsequently underwent right elbow surgery on 07/11/2013. The most recent documentation submitted from 09/04/2013 indicates that the patient presented with improving range of motion and parenthesis in the ulnar nerve distribution. Physical examination revealed elbow range of motion 20 to 90 degrees and tenderness over the elbow.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Manipulation under anesthesia to right elbow: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG);Elbow Chapter

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Elbow Chapter, Manipulation under Anasthesia

Decision rationale: Manipulation Under Anesthesia (MUA) is multidisciplinary manual therapy treatment system which is used to improve articular and soft tissue movement using specifically controlled release, myofascial manipulation, and mobilization techniques while the patient is under moderate to deep IV sedation using monitored anesthesia care (MAC). While the CA

MTUS/ACOEM is silent on this issue, the Official Disability Guidelines state that it is not recommended as there are no quality studies and case series outcomes for stiff elbow may be no better than the natural history of the condition. While the documentation presented for review from 09/04/2013 does indicate the patient has some ongoing issues with the restricted range of motion of the right elbow status post surgical repair, there is also indication the patient's condition is improving. Furthermore, the use of manipulation under anesthesia for the elbow is not supported at all by the Official Disability Guidelines regardless of patient condition. Therefore, this request cannot be supported and is, therefore, non-certified.