

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0033427		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/06/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/15/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/23/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/30/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/09/2013

### 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 54-year-old gentleman who was injured in a work related accident on 06/15/12. Specific to his left shoulder, documentation includes a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) report of 10/03/12 to the shoulder showing full thickness supraspinatus tendon tearing with partial subscapularis tendon tearing, infraspinatus tenodesis and a SLAP lesion to the superior glenoid. Recent clinical assessment of 09/09/13 with orthopedic surgeon, [REDACTED], indicates ongoing left shoulder complaints with physical examination finding supporting restricted range of motion and strength with resistance. There was noted to be marked tenderness with pain suggestive at the arc of impingement with resisted abduction and external rotation. The claimant was diagnosed with rotator cuff tearing to the left shoulder with SLAP lesion. Surgical intervention in the form of arthroscopy assessment and 24 sessions of postoperative therapy were recommended.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Left shoulder arthroscopic surgery:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 209.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 210.

**Decision rationale:** Based on the ACOEM Guidelines, surgical intervention to the employee's shoulder would appear warranted. The MTUS guidelines indicate, "Rotator cuff repair is indicated for significant tears that impair activities by causing weakness of arm elevation or rotation, particularly acutely in younger workers. Rotator cuff tears are frequently partial-thickness or smaller full thickness tears. For partial-thickness rotator cuff tears and small full-thickness tears presenting primarily as impingement, surgery is reserved for cases failing conservative therapy for three months." The employee is with clear documentation of SLAP lesion as well as rotator cuff lesion on imaging. Failing significant conservative care with a physical examination demonstrating continued impingement and weakness, the role of operative intervention at this stage in the employee's clinical course with clear documentation of surgical finding on imaging would be supported.

**Post-op physical therapy x 4-6 weeks:** Overturned

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

**Decision rationale:** Based on the MTUS Postsurgical Rehabilitative Guidelines, 24 sessions of initial therapy is indicated. The MTUS guidelines indicate twenty-four (24) sessions following surgery is recommended. This would be appropriate to restore range of motion and function.