

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0033552		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/11/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/05/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/05/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/20/2013
<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 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 28 year old man who was 10 years out from bilateral hernia surgery, in 2011 slipped while unloading packages on a wet floor. Right groin strain eventually evolved into chronic ilioinguinal neuritis. He was appropriately treated with multiple trigger point injections and had transient relief. However the pain has returned. There is now the question of a recurrence. Request is for exploration and hernia repair with mesh. Initial denial based in part that this may be an unrecognized femoral hernia.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Inguinal hernia repair with mesh:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Hernia (updated 07/08/13) Mesh repair (surgery)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Cameron's Current Surgical Therapy 11th edition.

**Decision rationale:** Patient has failed nonoperative therapy and appears to have developed a recurrence. In addition, he will benefit from exploration including neurectomy. The laparoscopic approach may offer some advantages including working in a previously unoperated

plane. In any event the surgeon should be comfortable with exploration of all nerve braches and neurectomy as indicated.

**Exploration of groin:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22638924>

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Cameron's Current Surgical Therapy 11th edition.

**Decision rationale:** As previously stated above, patient has failed nonoperative therapy and appears to have developed a recurrence. In addition, he will benefit from exploration including neurectomy. The laparoscopic approach may offer some advantages including working in a previously unoperated plane. In any event the surgeon should be comfortable with exploration of all nerve braches and neurectomy as indicated. There is no imaging that will clarify the diagnosis other than exploration.