

Case Number:	CM13-0039390		
Date Assigned:	12/18/2013	Date of Injury:	02/09/2011
Decision Date:	03/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/07/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/28/2013

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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 58-year-old female with a 2/9/11 date of injury. At the time of request for authorization for platelet rich plasma injection to right elbow and collection of autologous blood tissue, there is documentation of subjective findings of right and left elbow pain as well as bilateral wrist stiffness, numbness, and cramping. The objective findings include pain with active flexion/extension, supination, and pronation of right elbow, pain at the lateral elbow with resisted wrist extension and flexion, positive Cozen test, elbow flexion test, and middle finger extension tests. The current diagnoses of bilateral elbow epicondylitis. The treatments to date include cortisone injection in the right medial epicondyle.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PLATELET RICH PLASMA INJECTION TO THE RIGHT ELBOW: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 595.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 24.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS reference to ACOEM guidelines state that there are no quality studies of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection in the management of the cited

injury/condition and there is no evidence of its benefits. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for platelet rich plasma injection to right elbow is not medically necessary.

COLLECTION OF AUTOLOGOUS BLOOD TISSUE QTY:1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 595.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 24.

Decision rationale: There is no documentation of a pending platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection that is medically necessary. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for collection of autologous blood tissue is not medically necessary.