

Case Number:	CM13-0039897		
Date Assigned:	12/20/2013	Date of Injury:	12/08/2010
Decision Date:	05/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/09/2013

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:

Claimant with industrial injury 12/8/10. Report on 12/10/13 of complaint of pain in left elbow in the left ring and tenderness over the ulnar nerve of the left elbow. Report of positive Tinel's and elbow flexion test positive at the left cubital tunnel. Electrodiagnostic report from 7/25/12 demonstrates report of left carpal tunnel syndrome and peripheral neuropathy of the left upper extremity.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LEFT CUBITAL TUNNEL RELEASE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 238.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 238.

Decision rationale: The ACOEM guidelines are not satisfied for a cubital tunnel release. There is no evidence from the EMG/NCV testing on 7/25/12 of cubital tunnel to support the guidelines cited above. Therefore determination is not medically necessary.