

Case Number:	CM13-0044413		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	10/08/2010
Decision Date:	04/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/22/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/29/2013

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 Podiatric Surgery, and is licensed to practice in New York. . 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:

According to the enclosed information the original date of injury was 10-8-2010. On 10-15-2013 this pt was evaluated by his podiatrist. He has undergone 2nd MPJ plantar plate repair and delayed union of the osteotomy to the 2nd metatarsal. It is noted that the pt has hypermobility of the feet with sinus tarsi syndrome and posterior tibial tendinitis. Also noted is and ingrown toenail . The podiatrist feels that the patient needs increased control from his orthotics, and adds varus pads to the orthotics. It is recommended that he get new more supportive orthotics, as well as a strap to the left foot.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LEFT FOOT STRAP: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 1044-1046.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 376.

Decision rationale: According to the enclosed progress notes this patient is recovering from 2nd MPJ plantar plate repair and delayed union of osteotomy. He is noted to have overpronation, and posterior tibial tendinitis. After review of the pertinent MTUS guidelines, it appears that the

decision for a left foot strap is not medically reasonable or necessary at this time. Table 14-6 advises that braces and supports are recommended for acute injuries. This patient's injury is chronic. It is also noted that prolonged supports and bracing is not recommended without exercise due to a risk of debilitation

RIGHT FOOT ORTHOTICS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 1039-1041.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 371.

Decision rationale: According to the enclosed progress notes this patient is recovering from 2nd MPJ plantar plate repair and delayed union of osteotomy. He is noted to have overpronation, and posterior tibial tendinitis. After review of the pertinent MTUS guidelines, it appears that the decision for a right foot orthotic is not medically reasonable or necessary at this time. The MTUS guidelines state that rigid orthotics (full-shoe-length inserts made to realign within the foot and from foot to leg) may reduce pain experienced during walking and may reduce more global measures of pain and disability for patients with plantar fasciitis and metatarsalgia. The patient does not have a diagnosis of plantar fasciitis or metatarsalgia.