

Case Number:	CM13-0046588		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	09/17/2012
Decision Date:	02/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/16/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/31/2013

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 36-year-old who sustained a left tibial crush injury in a work related accident on 09/17/12. He underwent open reduction internal fixation on 09/17/12 secondary to the open injury and underwent a second surgery due to a nonunion on 03/28/13. The third surgical process was documented to have included a neuroma excision of the left lower extremity on 08/26/13. Clinical records for review indicated that the claimant underwent another surgery on 11/22/13 in the form of a gastrocnemius resection (Strayer procedure) for the preoperative diagnosis of an equinus contracture with foot rotation due to prior complex injury to the tibia. At present, there is a request for the surgical process that was performed on 11/22/13.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 left gastrocnemius length recession: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation on [REDACTED]. Gastrocnemius recession: Effective remedy for recalcitrant foot pain. October 2013. AAOSNow. Volume 7, Number 10 and Fry NR, Gough M, McNee AE, Shortland AP. J Pediatr Orthop. 2007 Oct-Nov; 27(7):769-74. Changes in the volume and length of the me

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Wheeler's Textbook of Orthopedics: Equinovarus Deformity.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS Guidelines are silent. When looking at current orthopedic literature, a gastrocnemius lengthening procedure is recommended for an equinus contracture. The claimant's preoperative diagnosis at the time of the operative report was that of "equinus contracture." The clinical records indicate that he sustained a significant complex fracture to the tibia that has required multiple procedures. Given his continued contracture and current diagnosis, the role of this surgical process performed on 11/22/13 appears to have been medically necessary.