

Case Number:	CM13-0053007		
Date Assigned:	03/03/2014	Date of Injury:	01/09/2010
Decision Date:	09/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/13/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/18/2013

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:

This is a 30-year-old gentleman who was injured in a work related accident on 01/09/10. Records for review indicate an injury to the right thumb for which a recent surgical request has been recommended in the form of a radial collateral ligament repair/reconstruction procedure. In direct relationship to the surgical process, there is a request for "preoperative clearance." Clinical records for review fail to document any underlying medical diagnosis for this otherwise healthy 30-year-old individual. There is no indication of underlying comorbidity, medication usage or current working medical diagnosis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PRE-OPERATIVE MEDICAL CLEARANCE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 270.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM (Second Edition, 2004), Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127.

Decision rationale: Based on California ACOEM Guidelines, the role of surgical referral for a medical clearance assessment would not be indicated. While guidelines indicate the role of

consultation if the course of care may benefit from additional expertise, there is currently no indication of underlying past medical history or underlying comorbidity in this individual to support the need for preoperative medical clearance before surgical intervention to the right thumb. The specific request would not be considered medically necessary.