

Case Number:	CM13-0053233		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	04/02/2008
Decision Date:	04/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/07/2013
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:

The claimant is a 54 year old female injured in a work related accident on January 1, 2003. The records indicate the claimant is with a current diagnosis of carpal tunnel syndrome for the left upper extremity. The claimant has been approved for the role of carpal tunnel release per utilization review process. The specific request is for an assistant surgeon for left carpal tunnel release procedure. Further clinical records are not pertinent to the request in this case.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

AN ASSISTANT SURGEON FOR THE LEFT CARPAL TUNNEL RELEASE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Surgeons.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Milliman Care Guidelines, 17th Edition, Assistant Surgeon.

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines are silent. When looking at the Milliman Care Guidelines, an assistant surgeon for carpal tunnel release procedure is not indicated. There would be no current indication for assistant surgeon given the clinical procedure to be performed.