MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM13-0057614		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	06/19/2006
Decision Date:	05/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/08/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/25/2013

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 current clinical records for review indicate an October 29, 2013 follow-up report, stating a longstanding history of chronic venous insufficiency, with a prior history of a right leg deep venous thrombosis, and a current assessment of thrombotic syndrome. Her physical examination on that date showed a well-healed ulceration to the right lower leg, with hyperpigmentation and edema consistent with venous insufficiency. Reviewed was a Doppler examination of September 4, 2013, that showed saphenous vein reflux. The claimant has been utilizing conservative modalities. Given ongoing clinical complaints, there are current recommendations for a right greater saphenous vein ligation and stripping with a stab phlebectomy. The clinical follow-up of November 6, 2013, provides no further clinical information, with the exception that the claimant was hospitalized for an acute right thigh deep vein thrombosis (DVT), for which the claimant was receiving anticoagulation. The surgical request was made prior to this new found diagnosis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RIGHT GREATER SAPHEOUS VEIN LIGATION AND STRIPPING WITH STAB PHLEBECTOMY: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACS SURGERY, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation STRIPPING OF THE LONG SAPHENOUS VEIN IN THE TREATMENT OF PRIMARY VARICOSE VEINS 1. MR S. SARIN*, 2. J. H. SCURR AND 3. P. D. COLERIDGE SMITH BRITISH JOURNAL OF SURGERY, 8 DEC 2005

Decision rationale: The Clinical Literature indicates that the addition of long saphenous vein (LSV) stripping to saphenofemoral ligation and multiple avulsions results in a better overall outcome. At the time of request for this surgical process, the claimant developed an acute deep vein thrombosis (DVT). The presence of an acute DVT and subsequent treatment would negate the need for any degree of lower extremity venous procedure at this stage in the claimant's clinical course of care. The specific request would not be supported as necessary.