

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0060005		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/09/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/20/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/21/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/02/2013

### 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 caught her foot on a ladder on February 9, 2012, resulting in a twisting injury of the right foot and lower extremity. A November 13, 2013, orthopedic progress report noted continued complaints of right foot pain despite conservative care, which included activity modification, immobilization, medications, work restrictions and a course of physical therapy. Physical examination showed tenderness to the second metatarsophlangeal joint, positive Lachman's test and no ankle dorsiflexion. An August 6, 2013 report of an arthrogram of the right ankle showed a tear to the anterior talofibular ligament, mild plantar fasciitis and mid-subtalar degenerative change. A September 23, 2013, MRI report of the right foot showed degenerative changes at the first and second metatarsophlangeal joints. This request is for surgical repair of a plantar plateau tear of the second metatarsophlangeal joint and osteotomy with possible gastrocnemius resection.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **REPAIR PLANTAR PLATEAU TEAR ON 2ND MTPJ AND 2ND METARSAL OSTEOTOMY AND POSSIBLE GASTROC RECESSON: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Foot and Ankle Chapter

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 374.

**Decision rationale:** According to California ACOEM Guidelines, the request for surgical repair of the plantar plateau tear of the second metatarsophlangeal joint and osteotomy with possible gastrocnemius resection is not established. The medical records document that the clinical imaging studies show evidence of a lesion that has been shown to benefit short- and long-term from surgical repair. The claimant is noted to have degenerative changes to the first and second metatarsophalangeal joint. While the ACOEM Guidelines would support the need for surgical repair of the plantar plateau tear of the second metatarsophlangeal joint, the medical records do not reference any documentation or clinical imaging that would support the need for osteotomy or an aggressive gastrocnemius resection. This is also based upon the clinical presentation and type of treatment rendered to the claimant to date. Therefore, the proposed surgery in total cannot be recommended as medically necessary.