

Case Number:	CM13-0060692		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	10/06/2012
Decision Date:	04/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/11/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/03/2013

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 49-year-old male who was injured in a work-related accident on 10/6/12. The clinical records provided for review included a 10/29/13 orthopedic assessment by [REDACTED] noting continued complaints of pain in the elbow. [REDACTED] documented that the claimant was status post a 1/31/13 right shoulder arthroscopy, rotator cuff repair, biceps tenodesis, subacromial decompression with debridement of labral tear, with continued complaints of pain. The orthopedic examination was documented to show a deformity of the elbow described as a nodule noted as a "possible suture or small varicose vein." [REDACTED] recommended surgical removal of the subcutaneous nodule. Treatment in regard to the claimant's elbow, particularly to this nodule, is unclear.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

A RIGHT ELBOW SURGERY FOR THE REMOVAL OF A SUBCUTANEOUS NODULE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 35.

Decision rationale: The California ACOEM Elbow 2007 Guidelines regarding surgical referral for elbow-related conditions recommend failure to improve with conservative measures and clear clinical imaging evidence of a lesion that has been shown to benefit in both the short and long term from surgical repair. The medical records provided for review do not indicate that the claimant's nodule the source of his continued pain complaints or cause any degree of functional limitation. There are no imaging reports for review and it is unclear what conservative treatment has been offered. Based upon the CA MTUS Elbow 2007 Guidelines, the proposed right elbow surgery for surgical removal of a subcutaneous nodule cannot be supported as medically necessary.