

Case Number:	CM13-0063030		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	09/30/1997
Decision Date:	07/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/09/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation 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 underlying date of injury in this case is 09/30/2007. This patient was injured when she tripped and fell. Diagnoses include internal derangement of the right wrist as well as resolved right elbow pain, chronic pain syndrome, morbid obesity, and plantar fasciitis. A medical evaluation of 05/21/2013 addressed the patient's obesity as a complicating factor for her orthopedic conditions and noted that the patient had lost 35 pounds with diet and medication and needed to lose 70 pounds overall.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ONE (1) WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM WITH [REDACTED]: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 1 Prevention.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Non-MTUS ACOEM Occupational Medicine Guidelines, Chapter 7, Consultation, Page 127.

Decision rationale: The Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule does not directly address this issue. ACOEM Guidelines, Chapter 7, Consultation, page 127 indicates that the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists. The medical records does establish that a referral for assistance with weight loss is indicated. However, the guidelines only support or

discuss referral to other medical professionals. The medical records in this case do not provide substantiation that the requested weight loss program would be medically supervised. This request is not medically necessary.