

Case Number:	CM13-0064995		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	02/16/2008
Decision Date:	06/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/12/2013

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 Podiatric Surgery and is licensed to practice in New York. 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:

According to the enclosed information, this patient was originally injured on 2/16/2008. According to the progress note dated 11/5/2013 this patient visited his physician with complaints of a recent flare up of left foot and ankle with associated swelling. Patient is requesting an x-ray. Physical exam reveals within normal limits range of motion to the ankle joint, with positive swelling to the area. X-rays reveal DJD to the talus. Diagnoses include osteoarthropathy of foot and ankle and unspecified derangement of joint, ankle and foot. A recommendation for off-the-shelf orthotic was made.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PAIR OF OFF THE SHELF ORTHOTICS WITH TECH FEE:
Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES (ODG), ANKLE & FOOT (UPDATED 08/19/2013).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 371-376.

Decision rationale: The MTUS/ACOEM Guidelines indicate that orthotics may be used for patients with plantar fasciitis and or metatarsalgia. This patient does not have either of those particular diagnoses. The guidelines also indicate that rigid orthotics may be used for appropriate diagnoses. This patient does not have these diagnoses. The request does not meet guideline recommendations, and is non-certified.