

Case Number:	CM13-0066795		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	11/07/2003
Decision Date:	04/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/19/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/17/2013

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 Occupational Medicine 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 applicant has filed a claim for chronic foot and toe pain associated with an industrial injury of November 7, 2003. Thus far, the applicant has been treated with the following: Analgesic medications; open reduction internal fixation of a fractured calcaneus; a spinal cord stimulator; transfer of care to and from various providers in various specialties; and extensive periods of time off of work. A November 16, 2012 progress note is notable for comments that the applicant has had multiple issues pertaining to the fractured foot. The applicant apparently has had ankle corticosteroid injections, spinal cord stimulator, and arch supports up through that point in time. On December 23, 2013, the applicant was described as having ongoing knee, foot, ankle, wrist, and low back issues. It was stated that the applicant has had arch supports in the past. The note was somewhat difficult to follow and mingled all complaints with current complaints. It was stated that the applicant was not working. It was stated that rocker-bottom shoes for the right foot with a soft custom insole could likely ameliorate the applicant's foot and toe pain issues. The applicant apparently states that previously furnished orthotics and shoes were not adjusted correctly, and further states that his knee brace has worn off. Applicant further states that his spinal cord stimulator may not be working optimally. The applicant stands 6 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 195 pounds. He exhibits tenderness about the sole, flat feet, limited ankle range of motion, and moderate limp. The applicant's medications profile includes Amrix, Neurontin, Norco, and Opana. Better arch support/shoes and insoles are endorsed. The applicant is described as not working.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ADJUSTABLE SHOES AND INSOLES: Overturned

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 & Ankle Chapter, Orthotic Devices.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 370.

Decision rationale: As noted in the MTUS-adopted ACOEM Guidelines in Chapter 14, Table 14-3, both soft, supportive shoes and rigid orthotics are recommended in the treatment of plantar fasciitis and/or metatarsalgia, diagnoses which do appear to be present here. The applicant does have longstanding, chronic foot, ankle, and toe issues. Earlier orthosis and shoes furnished to the applicant did not apparently fit him properly and reportedly resulted in heightened pain. The set of adjustable shoes and insoles being sought by the attending provider are therefore indicated, appropriate, and medically necessary. The request is certified, on Independent Medical Review.