

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0067201		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/03/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/29/2010
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/25/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/19/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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 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 51-year-old female who was injured in a work-related accident on 1/29/10. The clinical records provided for review documented a neck injury with elbow, shoulder, and wrist symptoms bilaterally and listed previous surgical treatment as deQuervain's release in April 2011 on the left wrist as well as a subsequent right deQuervain's release on 9/17/11. A January 2013 electrodiagnostic study identified mild bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome and mild Guyon's canal entrapment bilaterally. The clinical assessment dated 8/5/13 noted that the claimant continued to be symptomatic with complaints of the upper extremities. Formal objective findings were not documented. Recent conservative care included physical therapy and use of bracing. Recommendation was made for bilateral Guyon's canal release.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**GUYON'S CANAL RELEASES:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Wheelless/Online/Wrist/Hand.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Wheelless Textbook of Orthopedic Medicine Online: Tunnel of Guyon.

**Decision rationale:** The California ACOEM Guidelines and MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue. The Official Disability Guidelines also do not address this request. When looking at current orthopedic literature in Wheelless Textbook of Orthopedics Online, the request for bilateral Guyon's canal releases would not be supported in this case. The claimant's current clinical picture fails to demonstrate recent conservative measures or positive physical examination findings isolating the claimant's complaints to be addressed by this surgical process. The absence of the above at this chronic stage in the claimant's clinical course of care would fail to necessitate the above-mentioned procedure. Therefore, the requested Guyon's canal releases are not medically necessary or appropriate.