

Case Number:	CM13-0069634		
Date Assigned:	01/24/2014	Date of Injury:	10/02/2012
Decision Date:	06/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/18/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/23/2013

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 & 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 patient is an employee of [REDACTED] and has submitted a claim for left ankle and left foot pain associated with an industrial injury date of October 2, 2012. Treatment to date has included medications, physiotherapy, and left ankle open reduction internal fixation. Medical records from 2013 were reviewed, which showed that the patient complained of left ankle and left foot pain, throbbing in character. On physical examination, there was tenderness of the left ankle. Left foot physical exam findings were written illegibly. An MRI of the left foot dated 12/2/13 showed an unremarkable survey of the left foot. Utilization review from November 18, 2013 denied the request for MRI of Left Foot because there was no (legible) examination of the foot or discussion of foot pathology.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI OF THE LEFT FOOT: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 1043.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 372-374.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM Clinical Practice Guidelines, disorders of soft tissue yield negative radiographs and do not warrant other studies, e.g., magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In this case, although the patient complained of left foot pain, there were no physical examination findings that supported a possible diagnosis of left foot pathology, which may warrant further investigation with imaging studies. Furthermore, an MRI of the left foot dated 12/2/13 showed an unremarkable MR survey of the left foot. There is no clear indication for MRI of the left foot; therefore, the request for MRI of the left foot is not medically necessary.