

Case Number:	CM13-0070146		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	02/21/2013
Decision Date:	04/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/06/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/24/2013

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:

A handwritten note by the claimant dated December 19, 2013 documented that he was requesting orthotics for an injury that involved dropping an object on top of his right foot. The note documented that his current diagnosis was bilateral foot contusions. It also stated that the claimant was working a regular duty job and his physical examination continued to show no obvious abnormality with full range of motion, strength and no palpable deficit. It stated that a referral for orthotics was recommended as further treatment.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

THE REQUEST FOR ORTHOTICS, LEFT RFA 11/27/13: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)-TWC Ankle and Foot Procedure, Summary-last updated 8/19/2013.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Official Disability Guidelines Treatment in Worker's Comp, 18th Edition, 2013 Updates: ankle procedure - Orthotic devices.

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS Guidelines are silent. When looking at the Official Disability Guidelines, the request for orthotics for the claimant's foot is not indicated. The ODG Guidelines indicate that orthotic implants are only recommended for diagnoses of rheumatoid arthritis or recalcitrant plantar fasciitis. The claimant's current diagnosis of bilateral foot contusions would not support the need for orthotic placement.