

Case Number:	CM14-0003432		
Date Assigned:	01/31/2014	Date of Injury:	01/22/2013
Decision Date:	06/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/13/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/09/2014

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:

The patient has submitted a claim for right fifth metatarsalgia associated with an industrial injury date of January 22, 2013. Treatment to date has included oral analgesics, heat/cold modality, work modification, right foot injection with Kenalog and Marcaine. Medical records from 2013 were reviewed and showed right foot pain and tingling sensation over the distal right fifth metatarsal head with focal tenderness over the area on physical examination. The findings were consistent with a bone spur over the lateral fifth metatarsal. EMG and NCV studies of the bilateral lower extremities were done on May 24, 2013 which showed normal results; while an MRI of the right foot obtained on October 21, 2013 showed a small effusion at the right first metatarsophalangeal joint. The patient was recommended for surgical debridement of the fifth metatarsal head.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

EXCISION LATERAL ASPECT OF THE 5TH RIGHT METATARSAL: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Ankle & Foot Chapter, Exostosis Excision (for Hallux Valgus)/Surgery for Hallux Valgus.

Decision rationale: The CA MTUS does not address this topic. Official Disability Guidelines, Ankle & Foot Chapter was used instead. The discussion for exostosis excision of the ODG was redirected to Surgery for Hallux Valgus Topic, which states that surgical osteotomy appears to be an effective treatment for painful hallux valgus. In this case, excision of the lateral aspect of the right fifth metatarsal was requested due to symptomatology and physical findings consistent with a bone spur. However, this was not supported by an imaging study that would identify the presence of such. The medical necessity has not been established at this time. Therefore, the request for excision of the lateral aspect of the 5th right metatarsal is not medically necessary.