

Case Number:	CM14-0100843		
Date Assigned:	07/30/2014	Date of Injury:	01/05/1993
Decision Date:	08/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/26/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/30/2014

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:

This is a 64-year-old gentleman who injured his right lower extremity in a fall on 01/05/93. The clinical records provided for review document that the claimant fractured his right tibia and fibula requiring external fixator placement. The progress report of 06/07/14 describes chronic ankle complaints. Physical examination reveals a varus deformity and crepitation with range of motion. Plain film radiographs showed a varus deformity of the tibia with significant shortening. There is no documentation of recent conservative care or further imaging reports for review. This is a request for a partial excision of the right tibia and talus with debridement of the medial ankle gutter.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Outpatient Partial Excision of Right Tibia and Talus with Debridement of Medial Ankle Gutter: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Wheelless Textbook Of Orthopedics Online.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 374. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Wheelless' Textbook of Medicine Online: Ankle Varus Deformity.

Decision rationale: Based on California ACOEM Guidelines, the request for Outpatient Partial Excision of Right Tibia and Talus with Debridement of Medial Ankle Gutter in this case would not be indicated. The medical records do not contain any imaging reports or documentation of failed conservative care that would support the proposed surgery. While this claimant is noted to have chronic deformity of the foot dating back to time of initial injury in 1993, the absence of documentation of recent imaging or conservative measures would not support the request for the surgical process.