

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0105206		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/30/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/01/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/08/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/20/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/08/2014

### 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 56 year old female with a 5/1/11 injury date. The mechanism of injury was not provided. Based upon follow-up notes from 3/6/14 and 6/4/14, it is clear that the patient was scheduled for and then underwent right 1st CMC joint arthroplasty on 5/29/14. A cast was applied to the right arm at the 1st post-op visit on 6/4/14. Diagnostic impression: right 1st CMC joint arthritis. Treatment to date: right 1st CMC arthroplasty. A UR decision on 6/20/14 denied the request for short right arm cast on the basis that there was no documentation of when the surgical procedure was performed, and the cast is only appropriate within the first 6-8 weeks following the surgery.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Short Right Arm Cast:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines: Forearm, Wrist, and Hand (updated 02/18/14): Casting, Casting versus splints

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Badia A. Total Joint Arthroplasty for the Arthritic Thumb Carpometacarpal Joint. Am J Orthop. August 2008;37(8 suppl):4-7.

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS and ODG do not address this issue. In the review article by Badia A, "a short-arm thumb spica cast up to the interphalangeal joint is used for 1 month" after thumb CMC joint arthroplasty. In the present case, the request was made for a right short arm cast at about 1 week post-op. Therefore, the request for a short right arm cast is medically necessary.