

Case Number:	CM14-0014214		
Date Assigned:	02/26/2014	Date of Injury:	08/02/2010
Decision Date:	06/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/04/2014

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 injured worker is 47-year-old claimant with noted pain in the left medial ankle. Exam note 11/20/13 demonstrates pain posteriorly in talus and constant medial sided ankle pain. Exam demonstrates ankle stable to inversion stress test and anterior drawer and well-healed surgical scars. No body mass index is documented. Diagnosis is made of osteochondral lesion talar dome of the ankle. MRI left ankle 11/2/13 demonstrates medial talar dome osteochondral lesion and chronic scarring anteriorinferior tibiofibular ligament.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LEFT FOOT MEDIAL MALLEOLUS OSTEOTOMY TALUS RADIAL RESECTION, IE: OATS PROCEDURE: 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 Chapter, OATS

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue osteochondral autologous transfer system (OATS). ODG, Ankle chapter, OATS section states, "Not recommended in the ankle.

While osteochondral auto grafting has been principally performed on the knee, the OATS technique may have promise in the ankle. Although the OATS procedure is generally reserved for salvage of failed debridement and drilling in the ankle, it may have applications in primary surgical management, but long-term outcome of the OATS procedure is not yet available." As the ODG criteria do not support OATS in the ankle the decision for the surgical procedure is not medically necessary.