

Case Number:	CM14-0015276		
Date Assigned:	02/28/2014	Date of Injury:	07/31/2011
Decision Date:	06/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/06/2014

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 is a 54 year old female with reported industrial injury 7/31/11. The diagnosis is made of axillary pain. Treatment has included medication, ice, physical therapy and steroid injections. On 7/18/13, the claimant underwent left shoulder arthroscopy with SLAP tear debridement, subacromial decompression and coracoacromial release. An exam note from 12/16/13 demonstrates pain in the left axilla. There was reported tenderness and swelling in the axillar region.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 MRI OF THE LEFT AXILLA: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 8 Neck and Upper Back Complaints Page(s): 177-178.

Decision rationale: MTUS/ACOEM guidelines recommend an MRI of the shoulder when there is a red flag, evidence of tissue insult or failure to progress in a strengthening program. In this case, the cited records do not demonstrate any of these conditions that would warrant an MRI of the axilla. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

