

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0018260		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/18/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/12/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/30/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/06/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	02/13/2014

### 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 gentleman who injured his right shoulder on 6/12/12. The records provided for review indicate that the claimant underwent a left shoulder arthroscopy with rotator cuff repair followed by subsequent manipulation under anesthesia in early 2013. A recent physical examination dated 1/21/14 showed restricted motion at end points of forward flexion and external rotation and 4/5 motor strength with external rotation and abduction. There was positive Neer and Hawkins impingement testing. The claimant was diagnosed with shoulder impingement and labral tearing. The records contained a report of an MRI of the claimant's contralateral left shoulder but no formal imaging for the right shoulder in question. The recommendation for right shoulder arthroscopy, subacromial decompression, rotator cuff repair, and debridement was made. While the records indicate that the claimant has failed conservative care, there is no documentation regarding the specific conservative measures offered for this claimant's right shoulder.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**RIGHT SHOULDER ARTHROSCOPY, SUBACROMIAL DECOMPRESSION (SAD), ROTATOR CUFF REPAIR, DEBRIDEMENT:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 560-561.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints  
Page(s): 210-211.

**Decision rationale:** Based on California ACOEM Guidelines, the request for right shoulder arthroscopy, subacromial decompression, rotator cuff repair and debridement would not be indicated. While this individual is noted to have positive impingement and weakness on examination, there are no imaging reports to identify pathology to support the surgical process in question. There is no documentation to identify full thickness rotator cuff pathology or specific anatomical findings to necessitate the need for operative intervention. There is also a lack of documentation of the specific forms of conservative treatment offered to the claimant including a response to injection therapy. The need for a shoulder arthroscopy, decompression, and rotator cuff repair would not be supported.