

Case Number:	CM14-0121710		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	06/11/2012
Decision Date:	10/01/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/01/2014

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 Plastic Surgery, has a subspecialty in Hand Surgery and is licensed to practice in Oregon. 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 right handed male with a diagnosis of Dupuytren's disease. He underwent release of the small finger Dupuytren's contracture on 4/22/14. He continues to have finger stiffness, pain and loss of extension at the IP joint. 12 Occupational Therapy (OT) sessions were initially approved. Additional therapy is planned.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Occupational therapy 2 x 3 for right hand: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, wrist chapter, tendon repairs

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Per the MTUS guidelines, 12 visits are generally sufficient for therapy following Dupuytren's release. The treatment period is 4 months. This patient has already been authorized for 12 visits and is beyond the 4 month treatment period. [REDACTED] note dated 6/24/14 notes that the patient has slight extension loss at the MP joint. His grip is weaker on the operated hand. This patient should be able to complete therapy in a Home Exercise Program (HEP). The request for Occupational Therapy 2 x 3 for right hand is not medically necessary.

