

Case Number:	CM14-0126122		
Date Assigned:	08/13/2014	Date of Injury:	06/16/2008
Decision Date:	10/09/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/30/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/08/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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 records, presented for review, indicate that this 38 year old female was reportedly injured on June 16, 2008. The most recent progress note, dated June 19, 2014, indicated that there were ongoing complaints of shoulder pain. The physical examination demonstrated tenderness to palpation, decreased range of motion of the right shoulder, with no motor or sensory changes noted. Diagnostic imaging studies objectified changes consistent with an ordinary disease of life impingement syndrome, a subacromial bursitis, a tendinosis and tendinitis of the supraspinatus. Previous treatment included medications, injections, physical therapy and chiropractic care. A request was made for tennis elbow brace and surgical consultation and was not certified in the preauthorization process on July 30, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 tennis elbow brace: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 26.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG): Elbow chapter, updated May 2014

Decision rationale: The parameters noted in the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) were employed. There is a recommendation for a tennis elbow with a diagnosis of an epicondylitis. However, the predominant diagnosis relates to the shoulder. As such, there is insufficient clinical information presented to support the need for this abode stress. Therefore, based on the clinical information presented for review and by the parameters noted in the ODG, the request for Tennis Elbow Brace is not medically necessary.

1 surgical consultation for right shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 210-11. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Shoulder (Acute & Chronic)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004): Chapter 7 independent medical examinations and consultations, page 127

Decision rationale: As outlined in the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) guidelines, a consultation is sought when the diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex. Requesting provider is a board certified diplomat of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery. The physical examination and MRI evidence was demonstrated for a clinical picture. As such, there is insufficient clinical data presented to support the need for a consultation for orthopedic surgery. The medical necessity for 1 Surgical Consultation For Right Shoulder has not been established.