

Case Number:	CM14-0128496		
Date Assigned:	08/15/2014	Date of Injury:	04/21/2011
Decision Date:	09/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/12/2014

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, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine 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 patient with a date of injury of 4/21/11. A utilization review determination dated 8/5/14 recommends non-certification of extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT) for the right elbow. A 6/18/14 medical report describes moderate to severe elbow pain. On exam, there is limited range of motion and tenderness.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

3 High and/or Low Energy Extracorporeal Shockwave Treatment for the Right Elbow: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 29.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for extracorporeal shockwave treatments for the right elbow, the California MTUS and ACOEM state that quality studies are available on extracorporeal shockwave therapy in acute, subacute, and chronic lateral epicondylalgia patients and benefits have not been shown. This option is moderately costly, has some short-term side effects, and is not invasive. Thus, there is a recommendation against using extracorporeal

shockwave therapy. Within the documentation available for review, there is no clear indication for the use of ESWT despite the recommendations of the California MTUS. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested extracorporeal shockwave treatments for the right elbow are not medically necessary.