MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0151890		
Date Assigned:	09/19/2014	Date of Injury:	12/30/2011
Decision Date:	10/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/17/2014

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 Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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 65 year old male with a work injury dated 12/3/12. The diagnoses include left ankle status post crush injury with bimalleolar open reduction, internal fixation, positive for internal derangement; left foot status post stress fracture with residual. Under consideration is a request for a functional capacity examination.There is a primary treating physician report dated 8/9/14 that states that the left ankle is 2/10 constant to 4/10 occasional. On exam the patient is unable to squat and do heel-to-toe walk. He walks with a cane.The treatment plan includes a request for an FCE for P&S. The patient is on modified work duty.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional Capacity Exam: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness for duty

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG) Fitness for Duty- Functional Capacity Evaluation:

Decision rationale: Functional Capacity Exam is not medically necessary per the MTUS and ODG guidelines. The ACOEM guidelines state that in many cases, physicians can listen to the patient's history, ask questions about activities, and then extrapolate, based on knowledge of the patient and experience with other patients with similar conditions. The ODG states that an FCE can be considered if case management is hampered by complex issues. The ODG states that it is not appropriate to perform an FCE if the worker has returned to work and an ergonomic assessment has not been arranged.The documentation does not indicate complex case management issues. The patient is on modified duty. It is unclear how an FCE will change his medical management. The request for Functional Capacity Exam is not medically necessary.