

Case Number:	CM14-0152440		
Date Assigned:	10/02/2014	Date of Injury:	08/13/2014
Decision Date:	11/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/18/2014

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 Family Practice 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:

33 year old male claimant sustained a work injury on 8/13/14 involving the right ankle. He was diagnosed with a right ankle sprain. A progress note on 8/29/14 indicated the claimant had ankle pain. Exam findings were notable for tenderness in the ankle, swelling and instability with inversion. An MRI of the ankle was ordered to evaluate for instability.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI of the right ankle: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 377.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM guidelines, further evaluation is needed if plain films show > 13 mm of effusion. Ankle x-rays are based on Ottawa ankle rule. Routine radiographs are not recommended for ankle injuries. In this case, there is no evidence of effusion requiring additional investigation. Therefore and MRI is not medically necessary.