

Case Number:	CM14-0155411		
Date Assigned:	09/25/2014	Date of Injury:	05/06/2011
Decision Date:	10/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/26/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/23/2014

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 Podiatric Surgery and is licensed to practice in New York. 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:

According to the enclosed information, the original date of injury for this patient was 5/6/2011. According to the notes a heavy beam fell on the patient's left foot. On 8/15/2014 patient was evaluated by an orthopedic surgeon and noted to have left foot pain. It is noted that patient has orthotics and also underwent an ORIF for his left foot many years ago and the hardware is still in place. The pain is noted to be a level 6 out of 10. There is positive swelling to the left hallux, with the pain be more of an ache, and alleviated by rest. Some numbness and tingling is noted to the left hallux. First MPJ range of motion is limited. A recent consult is noted during this orthopedic exam by a podiatrist dated 8/5/2014, in which pain and swelling is noted to the left hallux and first MPJ. X-rays of the left foot revealed a cystic lesion of the proximal phalanx, well-defined, left hallux, non-aggressive looking. It was recommended that patient undergo bone curettage and packing of this cyst. This patient's diagnosis consisted of bone cyst.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bone curettage and packing of proximal phalanx by podiatrist, left foot: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 374.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 374.

Decision rationale: The enclosed progress notes, while confirming a bone cyst to the left hallux proximal phalanx, do not advise of activity limitation for this patient. Furthermore, there is no documentation that patient has failed an exercise programs to increase his first MPJ range of motion and/or strength around the first MPJ. The patient does have clear clinical imaging of a bone cyst to the proximal phalanx but it is questionable as to whether curettage will help benefit in the long or short term. This patient does not meet the above criteria, therefore bone curettage and bone packing cannot be recommended. As such, this request is not medically necessary.