

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0166993		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/14/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/13/2002
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/21/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/05/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	10/09/2014

### 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 Orthopedic Surgery 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:

57 year old male claimant with an industrial injury dated 09/13/02. MRI of the right shoulder dated 05/09/12 reveals moderate impingement syndrome, irregularity of the supraspinatus tendon in which the tear cannot be excluded and joint space effusion at the glenohumeral joint space. Exam note 06/12/14 states the patient returns with right shoulder pain. Upon physical exam the patient had an abduction of 160' and a flexion of 160'. There was positive impingement sign test, along with a positive drop test. Exam note 07/29/14 states the patient returns with right shoulder pain and no physical changes. Treatment plan includes a right shoulder subacromial decompression distal clavicle resection, and evaluation of possible repair rotator cuff and to continue with pain management.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Subacromial Decompression distal clavicle resection with evaluation of possible repair right rotator cuff surgery for right shoulder:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 210-211.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints Page(s): 209-210. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Shoulder section, Surgery for Rotator Cuff Repair

**Decision rationale:** According to the CA MTUS/ACOEM Shoulder Chapter, page 209-210, surgical considerations for the shoulder include failure of four months of activity modification and existence of a surgical lesion. In addition the guidelines recommend surgery consideration for a clear clinical and imaging evidence of a lesion shown to benefit from surgical repair. The ODG Shoulder section, surgery for rotator cuff repair, recommends 3-6 months of conservative care with a painful arc on exam from 90-130 degrees and night pain. There also must be weak or absent abduction with tenderness and impingement signs on exam. Finally there must be evidence of temporary relief from anesthetic pain injection and imaging evidence of deficit in rotator cuff. In this case the submitted notes from 6/12/14 do not demonstrate 4 months of failure of activity modification. The physical exam from 6/12/14 does not demonstrate a painful arc of motion, night pain or relief from anesthetic injection. Therefore, the Subacromial Decompression distal clavicle resection with evaluation of possible repair right rotator cuff surgery for right shoulder is not medically necessary and appropriate.