

Case Number:	CM14-0172670		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	09/26/2012
Decision Date:	12/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/20/2014

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 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:

Patient had a date of injury on 9/26/2012. Patient was opening a door ramp of a trailer when it suddenly free floated causing injury to his low back, hips, ankle and neck. Diagnosis included pain in joint, ankle and foot, sprain/strain of the lumbar spine. Patient had had an ankle brace which has provided ankle support and stability. Patient had left ankle surgery in 2013.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bilateral foot orthotics: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints
Page(s): 370-371.

Decision rationale: According to guidelines rigid orthotics may reduce pain experienced during walking and may reduce more global measures of pain and disability for patients with plantar fasciitis and metatarsalgia. According to the patient's medical records there is no indication for orthotics that would match the diagnosis and thus is not medically necessary.