

Case Number:	CM14-0172914		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	07/25/2003
Decision Date:	12/02/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/06/2014
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 Orthopedic Hand Surgeon and is licensed to practice in Oregon. 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:

This patient has been approved for right ring finger trigger release. Occupational therapy has been approved. The surgeon is also requesting Keflex and Norco for postoperative treatment.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Keflex 500mg #28: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Ann Surg 2008: 247:918-926

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Orthopedics. 2012 Jun;35(6):e829-33. doi: 10.3928/01477447-20120525-20. Is antibiotic prophylaxis necessary in elective soft tissue hand surgery? Tosti R1, Fowler J, Dwyer J, Maltenfort M, Thoder JJ, Ilyas AM.

Decision rationale: According to a study by Tosti et al, "The 4 most common procedures were carpal tunnel release, trigger finger release, mass excision, and first dorsal compartment release. The overall infection rate was 0.66%. All infections were considered superficial, and none required surgical management. In patients who received antibiotic prophylaxis (n=212), the

infection rate was 0.47%. In those who did not receive prophylaxis (n=388), the infection rate was 0.77%. These differences were not statistically significant (P=1.00)."

Norco 10/325mg #30: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Medications part 2 - Pain Interventions and Treatment Page(s): 92.

Decision rationale: The MTUS endorses opiates for short term postoperative pain control. The trigger finger procedure is certified and therefore Norco is medically necessary.