

Case Number:	CM14-0178260		
Date Assigned:	10/31/2014	Date of Injury:	06/27/2006
Decision Date:	12/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/10/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/27/2014

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 Plastic Surgery 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 is a 50-year-old female who underwent trapeziometacarpal arthroplasty with soft tissue interposition. She has attended 12 postoperative therapy sessions. Eight further therapy sessions are requested. Her surgery was performed on 1/20/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Physical therapy x8 for the left hand: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines arthroplasty/fusion, wrist/finger Page(s): 19.

Decision rationale: Per the MTUS guidelines: Arthropathy, unspecified (ICD9 716.9): Postsurgical treatment, arthroplasty/fusion, wrist/finger: 24 visits over 8 weeks *Postsurgical physical medicine treatment period: 4 months. The patient had surgery on 1/20/14. She is well beyond the four-month treatment period. The notes do not include any compelling indication for additional 8 sessions of therapy at this time. The request is not medically necessary.