

Case Number:	CM14-0023403		
Date Assigned:	04/23/2014	Date of Injury:	08/02/2013
Decision Date:	07/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/17/2014

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, has a subspecialty in Hand 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:

This claimant is a 47-year-old female who injured the right hand in a work related accident on August 2, 2013. The records provided for review included a progress report of January 27, 2014 that documented continued complaints of pain in the hand. The report describes the claimant's injury as an entrapment injury when she was caught between a press machine and had initially developed a hematoma on the dorsum of the right hand. The claimant required surgical evacuation of the hematoma. Physical examination showed a well healed scar between the index and middle metacarpal heads extending to the web space with swelling, dysesthesias to light touch and tenderness to palpation over the lateral epicondyle of the elbow. The claimant was diagnosed with posttraumatic neuroma versus tendon sheath adhesion. No imaging reports were provided for review. The recommendation was made for wound exploration, resection of the neuroma and an extensor tenolysis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RIGHT HAND EXPLORATION AT SURGICAL SITE FOR RESECTION OF NEUROMA AND EXTENSOR TENOLYSIS: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 270.

Decision rationale: Based on California American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Guidelines, the request for right hand exploration of the surgical site for resection of the neuroma and extensor tenolysis cannot be recommended as medically necessary. Although this individual continues to have discomfort around the incision, the records provided for review do not contain any formal imaging reports to determine pathology that would warrant further intervention for removal of a neuroma or extensor tendon surgery. The ACOEM Guidelines recommend clear evidence of a lesion that has been shown to benefit, both in the short and long term, from surgical intervention. The specific surgical request in this case would not be supported as medically necessary.