

Case Number:	CM14-0027692		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	09/07/2012
Decision Date:	08/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/04/2014

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:

The claimant is a 37-year-old male injured in a September 7, 2012, work-related accident. The records available for review document complaints of left ankle pain with walking and a prior micro-fracture procedure to the talus that was not beneficial. A previous utilization review certified an OATS procedure to the left ankle based on failed conservative care. This request is for equipment in the form of an Arthrex OATS kit with talus allograft and a small-fragment screw set.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Surgical Equipment Arthrex OATS kit/fresh talus allograft/sml fragment screw set:
Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 374.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM Guidelines, the requested orthopedic device of an Anthrex OATS kit would be supported. An OATS procedure to the ankle was previously certified. This request for specific orthopedic equipment is consistent with the standards of care

for an OATS-related procedure and, therefore, is supported as medically necessary and appropriate.