

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0031600		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/20/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/08/1997
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/29/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/03/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/12/2014

### 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 General Surgeon, has a subspecialty in Plastic Surgery and is licensed to practice in Texas and Arizona. 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 injured worker is a 43-year-old female who reported an injury on 04/08/1997. The specific mechanism of injury was not provided. The documentation of 01/21/2014 revealed the injured worker lost 70 pounds with the lap band procedure. The treatment plan included removal of excess skin. The injured worker's diagnoses included a history of prior right knee arthroscopic with residual pain, left knee tendinosis and pain exacerbated, chronic lumbar pain, status post lap band procedure and gastric bypass surgery, and depression and anxiety.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**REMOVAL OF EXCESS SKIN FROM BILATERAL ARM, THIGHS, ABDOMEN, BREAST:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation

<http://www.plasticsurgery.org/Documents/medical-professionals/health-policy/insurance/Surgical-Treatment-of-Skin-Redundancy-Following.pdf>.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence:web-based, plasticsurgery documents medical-professionals health-policy insurance Surgical-Treatment-of-Skin-Redundancy-Following.

**Decision rationale:** According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, "when surgery to remove excessive skin redundancy and fat folds is performed solely to enhance a patient's appearance in the absence of any signs or symptoms of functional abnormalities, the procedure should be considered cosmetic in nature and not a compensable procedure." The clinical documentation submitted for review failed to provide documentation that there was a medical necessity to remove the excess skin. Given the above, the request for removal of excess skin from bilateral arms, thighs, abdomen, and breasts is not medically necessary.