MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0037585		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	03/15/2006
Decision Date:	08/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/13/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/28/2014

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 Pennsylvania. 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 59-year-old gentleman who was injured on March 15, 2006. The medical records provided for review document the diagnosis of bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome. The report of the orthopedic follow up visit on February 18, 2014 described severe bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome with examination showing median compression testing and positive Tinel's and Phalen's testing. While the report of the electrodiagnostic studies was not provided, the treating provider documented that there was electrodiagnostic evidence of carpal tunnel syndrome on an Electromyography (EMG) performed greater than four years ago. The recommendation was made for a staged bilateral carpal tunnel release procedure.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Endoscopic vs Open Carpal Tunnel Release (CTR) (Staged): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints Page(s): 265,270.

Decision rationale: Based on California American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Guidelines, the request for endoscopic versus open carpal tunnel release surgery cannot be supported. The American College of Occupational and Environmental

Medicine (ACOEM) Guidelines recommend clinical correlation between electrodiagnostic evidence of carpal tunnel syndrome and the claimant's current clinical findings prior to consideration for surgery. There is currently no documentation a report of electrodiagnostic studies available for review with the treating provider stating the last study performed was greater than four years ago. In the absence of current electrodiagnostic studies that correlate with the claimant's physical examination, the proposed surgery cannot be recommended as medically necessary.