

Case Number:	CM14-0047731		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	04/20/2011
Decision Date:	07/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/19/2014
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 Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 61 year old female who sustained an injury on 04/20/11. No specific mechanism of injury was noted. The injured worker had been followed for complaints of pain in the bilateral elbows and was recommended for platelet rich plasma injections. No other clinical information was available for review from the provided documents. The only submitted information was clinical literature articles regarding platelet rich plasma injections. The requested bilateral platelet rich plasma injections were denied by utilization review on an undetermined date.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Platelet Rich Plasma Injection Bilateral Elbows: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 30-33.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Elbow Chapter, Platelet Rich Plasma Injections.

Decision rationale: In regards to the request for bilateral platelet rich plasma injections, this reviewer would not have recommended this request as medically necessary based on the clinical

documentation provided for review as well as guideline recommendations. Per guidelines, platelet rich plasma injections for the elbows can be considered as a 2nd line therapy for chronic lateral epicondylitis after physical therapy has been trialed. In this case, there is no clinical information provided for review regarding the bilateral elbows in regards to symptoms or physical examination findings. It is unclear whether the injured worker has completed any physical therapy to date. Given the paucity of clinical information available for review, this reviewer would not have recommended the request as medically necessary.