

Case Number:	CM14-0047980		
Date Assigned:	07/02/2014	Date of Injury:	10/16/2004
Decision Date:	08/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/18/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/16/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 is a 57-year-old male with a 10-16-2004 date of injury, due to a fall. 3/18/14 determination was non-certified given that proceeding with cosmetic correction prior to addressing the medical aspect, did not appear to be an appropriate solution. 3/13/14 medical report identified bilateral elbow pain with frequent tingling and numbness in the ring and small fingers of both hands. Exam revealed persistent focal tenderness over the transposed left ulnar nerve and the right cubital tunnel. There was attenuated sensation in the ring and small fingers of both hands. The nasal deformity was unchanged. Requests include Artifill injection and surgery for the elbow. 1/20/14 medical report identified with regards to the nose, frequent nosebleeds and difficulty breathing. The most concerning to the patient is the crooked appearance and bump in this nose. Exam revealed some loss of symmetry involving the nasal pyramid with depression of the upper lateral cartilage at the margin of the nasal pyramid on the right side vs. that of the left. The nasal vestibule on both sides is patent. There was mild tenderness over the right sided nasal pyramid. The provider states that the patient is plagued with a deformity involving the right side of the nasal pyramid and the recommendation was for a simple filler material that would result in an acceptable outcome.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Artifill Injection 0.8cc on the right side of nasal asymmetry: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Non-MTUS Guidelines, Summary of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Trials and a Progress Report on 4 to 5 year outcomes Plastic Reconstructive Surgery reports ArteFill is a Third Generation Permanent Dermal Filler and Tissue Stimulator.

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: fda.gov.

Decision rationale: ArteFill is a filler that is injected into the nasolabial folds around the mouth to smooth these wrinkles. There appears to be no clear indication of FDA approval for correction of nasal deformities. In addition, cosmetic surgery/treatment is indicated when there is needed to improve the functioning of a body part or otherwise medically necessary even if the surgery also improves or changes the appearance of a portion of the body. In this particular case, while the patient does present with nose bleeding and difficulty breathing it was not clear that the requested injection will correct any possible medical underlying pathology responsible for the patient's symptoms. There was insufficient documentation to support the medical necessity of this request.

