

Case Number:	CM14-0048125		
Date Assigned:	07/02/2014	Date of Injury:	04/15/2012
Decision Date:	11/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/19/2014
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 Podiatric Surgery and is licensed to practice in New York. 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:

According to the enclosed information the original date of injury for this patient was 4/5/2012. On 2/5/2014 patient was seen in follow-up for evaluation of left tarsal tunnel syndrome. Patient relates that he is still symptomatic; however, physical therapy is helping a bit. Physical examination reveals left foot edema, with pain upon palpation to the tarsal tunnel with shooting pain to the plantar left foot. X-rays revealed healing of the left foot. Treatment today consisted of casting for new orthotic for shoes, Neurotx medication, and request for authorization of platelet-rich plasma (PRP). On 3/5/2014 patient was seen in follow-up for left foot pain. Patient relates continued pain. Orthotics were dispensed and physician relates that they are still waiting for authorization for PRP. On 3/26/2014 patient still awaits authorization for PRP as he is still having pain to the left foot. On 5/14/2014 patient was evaluated and found to have continued pain to the left foot and ankle. He is also experiencing pain to the posterior tibial tendon and posterior tibial nerve. Physical exam reveals tenderness along these structures. X-rays are negative for stress fractures.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Platelet rich plasma left foot: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines - Chapter Ankle & Foot

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 371. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG): Treatments: PRP

Decision rationale: After careful review of the enclosed information and the MTUS guidelines pertinent for this case, platelet rich plasma injection to the left foot is not medically reasonable or necessary for this patient at this time. Chapter 14 of the above mentioned guidelines, page 371, states that invasive techniques (e.g., needle acupuncture and injection procedures) have no proven value, with the exception of corticosteroid injection into the affected web space in patients with Morton's neuroma or into the affected area in patients with plantar fasciitis or heel spur if four to six weeks of conservative therapy is ineffective. Furthermore, The Official Disability Guidelines consider platelet rich plasma injections as a nonstandard treatment. The guidelines go on to state that more investigation is needed before the use of platelet rich plasma injections should be considered a standard treatment.