

Case Number:	CM14-0049966		
Date Assigned:	07/07/2014	Date of Injury:	05/28/2011
Decision Date:	08/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/17/2014

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 progress notes, original date of injury of this patient was 5/28/2011. While running at work the patient twisted their right foot. Enclosed in this file is a progress note dated 3/5/2014. Unfortunately this note is essentially illegible. I am able to make out the recommended treatment plan, which states PF release still needed, which I believe is plantar fascial release still needed. A letter from the podiatrist to the patient's primary care physician dated 3/5/2014 advises that this patient is still ambulating with difficulty. Pain persists to the right heel at a level IX and has not shown any improvement. The orthopedic exam advises sesamoid area pain as well as right heel pain. Severe symptoms upon weight-bearing. Patient is unable to perform toe walking, toe standing, squatting, crouching, heel walking, heel standing. this progress note also advises that patient has been using topical medication to her foot as well as a night splint. There is no indication as to how long she's been using these modalities. Diagnoses include plantar fasciitis right foot, painful gait. Patient is awaiting authorization for plantar fasciotomy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Plantar fasciectomy right 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 Ankle & Foot: Surgery for plantar fasciitis.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 370,, 374, 375.

Decision rationale: After careful review of the enclosed information and the treatment MTUS guidelines for this case, it is my feeling that the decision for a plantar fasciotomy right foot is not medically reasonable or necessary for this patient at this time. Chapter 14 of the MTUS guidelines discusses treatment options for plantar fasciitis. These include a heel doughnut, soft supportive shoes, and rigid orthotics. There is no indication in the enclosed notes that this patient has attempted these treatment plans. Furthermore, it is noted in the guidelines that a referral for surgical consultation (plantar fasciotomy) may be indicated for patients who have:- Activity limitation for more than one month without signs of functional improvement.- Failure of exercise programs to increase range of motion and strength of the musculature around the ankle and foot.- Clear clinical and imaging evidence of a lesion that has been shown to benefit in both the short and long term from surgical repair. The enclosed notes do not advise that this patient has failed an exercise program or that there is clear clinical imaging evidence of a lesion such as a thick and or firm plantar fascia. Finally, there is no evidence that patient has had at least six months of conservative treatment for her plantar fasciitis. Therefore, the request for plantar fasciectomy right foot is not medically necessary.