

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0050927		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/07/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/23/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/06/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/21/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/18/2014

### 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 Internal Medicine, 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:

The claimant is a 61-year-old who sustained an industrial injury on July 23, 2007 after falling down the steps. His diagnoses are bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome, cubital tunnel syndrome and left ulnar nerve entrapment. On exam he had a positive Tinel and Phalen test on the left. He is scheduled for a left carpal tunnel release. He is diabetic and prophylactic antibiotics have been requested. The treating provider has requested Keflex 500mg #30.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Keflex 500mg, thirty count:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Non-MTUS article Rate of Infection After Carpal Tunnel Release Surgery and Effects of Antibiotic Prophylaxis, by Neil G Harness, MD, Maria C Inacio, MS, Faith F Pheil, BS, Liz W Paxton, MA.

**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: Medscape Internal Medicine: Carpal Tunnel Surgery.

**Decision rationale:** The overall infection rate after carpal tunnel release surgery is low. In addition, the deep (organ/space) infection rate is much lower than previously reported. Antibiotic

use does not decrease the risk of infection in this study population, including patients with diabetes. The routine use of antibiotic prophylaxis in carpal tunnel release surgery is not indicated. Medical necessity for the requested item is not established. The request for Keflex 500mg, thirty count, is not medically necessary or appropriate.