

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0060696		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/11/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/13/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/26/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/17/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/01/2014

### 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 Orthopedic Surgery and Hand Surgery, 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 28-year-old male who reported an injury on 02/14/2014. The mechanism of injury was not provided. On 04/02/2014, the injured worker presented with neck pain, shoulder pain, left elbow pain, and left wrist pain, with numbness in the fingers. He noted that the prior left shoulder injection provided excellent and completed pain relief for 4 weeks. Examination of the bilateral hands and wrists noted 2 wounds to the right hand along the thenar eminence from the avulsion wound and along mid axial line of the right thumb distally. Range of motion of the right wrist was within normal limits. There was a painful keloid scar to the right thumb distally that blanched with extension of the interphalangeal joint. Diagnoses were status post right hand avulsion injury with subsequent skin graft of the avulsed soft tissues to the thenar evidence. The provider recommended an excision of the right thumb keloid with primary wound closure due to a painful keloid scar. The Request for Authorization Form was not included in the medical documents for review.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Excision of the Right Thumb Keloid with Primary Wound Closure:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Habif: Clinical Dermatology, pages 25-27

**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: Hypertrophic Scars and Keloids, Dermatol Surgery pages, 171-181

**Decision rationale:** The request for an Excision of the Right Thumb Keloid with Primary Wound Closure due to painful keloid scar is not medically necessary. Scientific research notes that scar revision is considered necessary when there is documented evidence of significant functional deficits related to the scar, and treatment can be reasonably expected to improve the physical functional impairment. Treatment of keloids is considered cosmetic, and not medically necessary when performed in the absence of a significant functional impairment, not reconstruction, and/or intended to change a physical appearance that would be considered within normal human anatomic variation. There is a lack of documentation in the medical documents provided of functional deficits related to the right thumb. Additionally, the clinical note indicates 7/10 pain to the left wrist and hand, with numbness in the fingers, but there is no mention of a pain score related to the right thumb. Without documented functional deficits and a complete and adequate pain scale, the excision for the right thumb keloid would not be medically necessary.