

Case Number:	CM14-0062695		
Date Assigned:	07/25/2014	Date of Injury:	07/03/2008
Decision Date:	09/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/05/2014

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 General Surgery 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 67 year old male sustained a crush injury to his left foot 7/3/08. An avascular necrosis of the talus resulted. Along with depression, he has developed Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. His main complaint was left foot weakness, pain, and numbness with radiation in to the leg. He failed conservative management and a spinal cord stimulator trial was advised. The request was denied as there had not been a psych clearance. The records are confusing as some reports state that there had been a prior crush injury to the right foot which resulted in Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy. The avascular necrosis of the talus has essentially resulted in osteoarthritis of the left ankle with radiation of pain to the knee. It was felt per QME [REDACTED] 3/1/ 2012. He did not feel that a psych evaluation would be of any benefit but that a SCS was indicated for the right foot crush injury neuropathic symptoms

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Implant Neuroelectrodes: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Spinal Chord Stimulator Page(s): 101 & 105.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Psychological evaluations Page(s): 100-101. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official

Disability Guidelines, Treatment Index, 5th Edition, 2007, Pain--Spinal cord stimulator indications.

Decision rationale: Although the QME did not feel a psych evaluation was of any value, the patient has also been diagnosed with anxiety and depression which, although could easily be understood by his two separate similar injuries and Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, the patient needs to understand quite clearly that this is unlikely to relieve the left foot/ankle pain that is due to osteonecrosis and not neuropathic pain per se. The psyche clearance, furthermore, is medically necessary per medical evidence-based Guidelines. Per MTUS, Psychological evaluations are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in chronic pain populations.