

Case Number:	CM14-0068367		
Date Assigned:	09/05/2014	Date of Injury:	07/04/2007
Decision Date:	10/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/28/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/13/2014

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 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:

The records presented for review indicate that this 54 year-old individual was reportedly injured on 7/4/2007. The mechanism of injury is noted as a fall from a horse. The most recent progress note, dated 8/13/2014, indicates that there were ongoing complaints of bilateral elbow pain. The physical examination demonstrated positive Tinel's sign over the cubital tunnel, numbness to light touch. Early atrophy of the 1st dorsal interosseous was noted. Diagnostic imaging studies include x-rays which demonstrated continued degenerative changes including bone spurs protruding into the cubital tunnel. Treatment includes right elbow arthroscopy, medications, physical therapy, and injections. A request had been made for CBC and BMP (pre-op labs) and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on 4/28/2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-op labs: CBC and BMP: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 32.

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: The Merck Manual. Preoperative Evaluation: Care of the Surgical Patient. Pre-Op Labs, CBC and BMP.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) guidelines do not specifically address this issue; therefore, alternative medical references were used for citation. The Merck manual states that routine preoperative evaluation vary substantially from patient to patient, depending on the patient's age, general health, and risks of the procedure. After review the medical records provided the requested surgical procedure has not been authorized at this time, therefore, preoperative labs and evaluation are not medically necessary.