

Case Number:	CM14-0070397		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2014	Date of Injury:	04/17/2012
Decision Date:	11/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/06/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/15/2014

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 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 patient is a 51-year-old female with a date of injury of April 17, 2012. She is diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome, right trigger thumb, and recurrent left trigger thumb. She's had carpal tunnel release surgery and cubital tunnel release surgery as well as trigger thumb surgery. Physical examination documents a painful trigger thumb unresponsive to bracing and recent injection. The patient had recent hand surgery. At issue is whether oral Keflex is medically necessary postoperatively.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Keflex (Cephalexin) 500mg Capsules #12: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) - Perioperative Antibiotic Guidelines

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: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, Orthopedic Guidelines, indicates 24 hours of perioperative antibiotics are recommended for orthopedic and procedures, American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons; orthopedic knowledge update, hand, 2010.

Decision rationale: American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeon Guidelines does not recommend prophylactic use of Keflex 24 hours after uncomplicated hand surgery. The medical necessity of Keflex for this uncomplicated and non-infected hand procedure has not been established in the medical records. There is no clinical indication for the use of Keflex as the patient has not been diagnosed with an infection and there is no need for infection prophylaxis at this stage postoperatively. Therefore this request is not medically necessary.