

Case Number:	CM14-0071278		
Date Assigned:	06/30/2014	Date of Injury:	06/04/2011
Decision Date:	08/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/07/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 52-year-old female with a June 4, 2011 date of injury, and status post right ankle arthroscopy, synovectomy, debridement, excision of tibial osteophyte, and chondroplasty November 15, 2012. At the time of the request for authorization for platelet-rich plasma injection to the right ankle (on March 17, 2014), there is documentation of subjective (right ankle pain and swelling) and objective (swelling right ankle laterally) findings, current diagnoses (internal derangement right ankle), and treatment to date (medications, chiropractic, physical therapy, acupuncture, aquatic therapy, activity modification, and medications).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Platelet-rich plasma injection to the right ankle: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, platelet-rich plasma.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES (ODG) ANKLE AND FOOT, PLATELET-RICH PLASMA (PRP).

Decision rationale: The California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) does not address this issue. The ODG identifies that platelet-rich plasma to the ankle is not recommended. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the records, the request for platelet-rich plasma injection to the right ankle is not medically necessary or appropriate.