

Case Number:	CM14-0075059		
Date Assigned:	07/16/2014	Date of Injury:	12/17/2005
Decision Date:	09/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/22/2014

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:

Patient is a 32 year old male, with 12/17/05 date of plantar flexion and inversion injury to his right ankle, when stepped on a matt at the end of the stairs while wakling down the stairs.05/06/14 progress note states that patient received 4 surgeries for treatment of ankle instability, however, he claims his condition has not improved since the injury.Patient complains of lateral ankle pain. There has been swelling and instability in the past. There has been no locking/catching. Patient is able to run on a limited basis, unable to change directions.Medications: Ibuprofen 800mg.Objectively, left and right ankle demonstrate symmetrical ROM. There is lateral swelling about the ankle. No tenderness medial malleolus. Tenderness of anterior and posterior talofibular, calcaneofibular ligaments.Anterior drawer test positive. Talar tilt test positive, no peroneal instability.X-rays demonstrate ring sequestra of the fibula talus and calcaneus in the right ankle.Impression: Right ankle instability involving the lateral ligaments. Ankle reconstruction is recommended.Request is for Pre-op labs clearance.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre-op Labs Clearance: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Low Back - Lumbar & Thoracic (Acute & Chronic) Chapter.

Decision rationale: Patient is scheduled to undergo an open surgery with high infection risk and blood loss potential. Patient has a history of DVT acquired after 3rd ankle surgery. Laboratory testing in this case could provide data that could be potentially beneficial to maintaining patient's stability throughout the surgical procedure as well as post-op. The request for Pre-Op Labs Clearance is medically necessary.