

Case Number:	CM14-0093502		
Date Assigned:	07/25/2014	Date of Injury:	06/18/2013
Decision Date:	08/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/20/2014

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 Occupational Medicine 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 38-year-old female with a 6/18/13 date of injury. At the time (6/3/14) of request for authorization for Functional Capacity Evaluation for the Right Ankle and Foot, there is documentation of subjective (persistent right ankle and foot sprain rated as a 7 out of 10) and objective (tenderness to palpation over the right lateral and medial ankle, and decreased plantar flexion and dorsiflexion) findings, current diagnoses (ankle and foot sprain/strain with mild subcutaneous edema of the right ankle), and treatment to date (acupuncture, medications, and physical therapy). There is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW (return to work) attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (Close to or at MMI (maximal medical improvement)/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional Capacity Evaluation for the Right Ankle and Foot: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM, Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer based their decision on the MTUS American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page(s) 137-138 and on the Non-MTUS Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness For Duty, Functional capacity evaluation (FCE).

Decision rationale: MTUS reference to ACOEM guidelines identifies that functional capacity evaluations (FCE) may establish physical abilities and also facilitate the examinee/employer relationship for return to work (RTW). ODG identifies documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a functional capacity evaluation. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of ankle and foot sprain/strain with mild subcutaneous edema of the right ankle. However, there is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Functional Capacity Evaluation for the Right Ankle and Foot is not medically necessary.