

Case Number:	CM14-0006118		
Date Assigned:	02/05/2014	Date of Injury:	05/14/2009
Decision Date:	04/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/15/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:
 State(s) of Licensure: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Plastic Surgery

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 injured worker is a 54-year-old male, who sustained a work related injury on 5/14/09. The diagnosis has included scar on nose status post Mohs surgery. Treatment to date has included Mohs surgery to nose. In the PR-2 dated 11/11/13, the injured worker complains of a disfiguring scar on his nose from previous procedure. He has a depression on his nose. On 12/27/13, Utilization Review non-certified a request for filler (Juvederm) to disfiguring depression on nose. Non- MTUS was cited. The patient had undergone laser treatments of the scar of the nose with stated success in improving the appearance. Documentation from 11/11/13 notes that the patient 'notices a little bit of depression of his nose.' Examination notes a depression. Options were considered including temporary filler versus possible open tip rhinoplasty. Authorization was requested for Juvederm, as temporary filler.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Filler (Juvderm) To Disfiguring Depression on Nose: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Apollo Managed Care.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ASPS Recommended Insurance Coverage Criteria for Third-Party Payers, Skin lesions, 3/2003 accessed on 4/7/15 at <http://www.plasticsurgery.org/Documents/medical-professionals/health-policy/insurance/Skin-Lesions.pdf>.

Decision rationale: The patient is a 54-year-old male who had previously undergone Mohs surgery and reconstruction for a skin cancer of the tip of the nose. Due to the appearance of the scar, he underwent laser treatment with stated improvement. He presented still with concern over the scar of the nose, which was described as noticing 'a little bit of depression'. A temporary filler was recommended to improve the contour. Overall, there is insufficient documentation as to the degree of severity of the current scar. Photographs were not provided in the medical records to assist in this. Based on the description of the scar there does not appear to be a significant deformity present. In addition, there is no functional problem described. As adopted by the ASPS, Cosmetic surgery is performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve the patient's appearance and self-esteem. Reconstructive surgery is performed on abnormal structures of the body, caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease. It is generally performed to improve function, but may also be done to approximate a normal appearance. Thus, reconstructive surgery can be performed to approximate a normal appearance. However, it is not clear from the medical documentation how normal or abnormal the appearance of the nose is. 'A little bit of depression' does not support that there is a significantly abnormal appearance. As stated, no photographs were provided to help clarify this. The patient had also appeared to have undergone multiple laser treatments for scar revision already. Finally, Juvederm would only be a temporary correction and thus would not provide any meaningful long-term correction. Thus, this should not be considered medically necessary.