

Case Number:	CM14-0187763		
Date Assigned:	11/18/2014	Date of Injury:	09/01/2012
Decision Date:	01/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/11/2014

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:

This individual is a 39 y/o male who developed elbow problems subsequent to an injury dated 9/1/12. He was treated with surgery and eventually had a radical head excision and prosthetic component placed. He then developed contractures and was operated on with manipulation and a capsular release. Due to recurrent extension restriction a progressive Dynasplint was authorized and utilized from 8/15/14 through 11/14/14. An extension was requested and denied in U.R.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right Elbow Extension Dynasplint: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Splinting

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Elbow, Static Progressive Stretch therapy.

Decision rationale: This issue is not addressed by MTUS Guidelines, however ODG Guidelines directly address it. The use of Static Progressive Stretch (Dynasplint) is recommended for up to 8 weeks total use. Longer-term use is not shown to be beneficial. There requested extension

beyond the 12 weeks already authorized is not consistent with Guidelines and is not medically necessary.