

Case Number:	CM14-0191963		
Date Assigned:	11/26/2014	Date of Injury:	02/23/2014
Decision Date:	01/12/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/17/2014

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:

The injured worker is a 29 year old male who has developed persistent ankle pain subsequent to a strain injury on 2/23/14. He has been diagnosed with a lateral ankle sprain. X-ray and MRI studies are reported to be negative for acute changes. He has been treated with physical therapy and oral analgesics. Chiropractic sessions were requested in addition to a functional capacity evaluation. There is no documentation of communications with a specific employer; there is no documentation of a specific job task that has been made available.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Functional capacity evaluation: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 5 Cornerstones of Disability Prevention and Management Page(s): 77-89. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness for Duty, Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness for duty, Functional Capacity Evaluation; ACOEM 2nd ed. Chapter 7, Independent Medical Evaluations pages(s) 137, 138

Decision rationale: The MTUS Guidelines do not specifically address the medical necessity of Functional Capacity Evaluations (FCEs). Other Guidelines do address this issue and are consistent with their recommendations. FCEs are only recommended if communications are established with an employer and there is a specific job task(s) offered and available. Under these circumstances the purpose of the FCE is to evaluate the safety and suitability of predetermined job task(s). In this instance, there is no evidence of any employer communications and there is no evidence of predetermined job tasks that have been made available. There are no unusual circumstances that justify an exception to Guideline recommendations. The requested FCE is not medically necessary.