

Case Number:	CM14-0192924		
Date Assigned:	11/26/2014	Date of Injury:	06/28/2014
Decision Date:	01/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/18/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 patient is a 50 year old male with a date of injury of June 28, 2014. The patient injured his shoulder when he fell from a height. He is diagnosed with right distal clavicle fracture with a.c. joint disruption. An X-ray shows subluxation of the a.c. joint. The patient had surgery for a.c. joint and shoulder pathology. The X-rays show the hardware to be in good position and the fracture to be aligned. There is some mild subluxation of the a.c. joint. Physical exam shows some prominence of the distal clavicle. The patient has had physical therapy but has pain on physical therapy. The Current x-ray shows the fracture to be healed. At issue is whether additional shoulder surgery and removal of the hardware with revision is medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Surgery Right Shoulder Acromioclavicular Joint Reconstruction and possible DCR with hardware removal or hardware revision: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Chapter, Surgery for AC joint separation

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Shoulder Chapter

Decision rationale: This patient does not meet establish criteria for revision shoulder surgery. The ODG guidelines do not recommend surgery at this time. The medical records indicate that the fracture is healed. The medical records do not indicate imaging studies that show specific pathology that would warrant additional revision surgery. There is no clear diagnosis. There is no clear cause to the patient shoulder pain. There is no documentation of instability of the a.c. joint or shoulder instability. The specific indication for surgery has not been clearly documented and indicated with imaging studies. The cause of the patient's postoperative shoulder pain is not clearly depicted in the medical records. In addition significant attempts postoperative physical therapies have not been completed. More conservative measures are needed. More documentation as to the second pathology present must be included in the medical records. Shoulder surgery at this time is not medically necessary based on the available medical records.

Associated surgical service: Post-operative physical therapy, three times a week for four weeks for the right shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation MTUS Shoulder Pain Chapter

Decision rationale: Since surgery is not medically necessary, then all other associated items are not medically necessary.