

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0194598		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/21/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/28/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/15/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/16/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/06/2014

### 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 Podiatric 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:

According to the enclosed information the original date of injury for this patient was 10/28/2013. On 9/23/2014 patient was evaluated by podiatry for dorsal and plantar pain to the right foot. He relates an injury in which a piece of metal fell on his right foot. He advises a past history of physical therapy treatments as well as anti-inflammatory medicines as well as Ultram. X-rays were negative for any fracture. An MRI evaluation revealed no fractures to the right foot with some arthritic changes to the first MPJ. Patient then underwent acupuncture treatment. Because patient did not achieve any relief of right foot pain, it was recommended that he obtain custom functional orthotics. During this visit the patient advised a podiatrist of continued right foot pain which has not responded well to any of the prior treatments. Physical exam reveals an unstable limping type gait. Tenderness is noted upon palpation to the right ankle as well as medial slip of the plantar fascia right side. Muscle strength appears within normal limits bilateral lower extremity muscle groups; x-rays demonstrate no obvious fracture to the right foot. Assessment includes crushing injury to the right foot, plantar fasciitis, ankle sprain right side, peripheral neuropathy, and pain right foot. Patient was placed in a low dice strapping right foot, which will help in the evaluation for a custom orthotic and or AFO. Finally, a request for authorization for a complete biomechanical examination and casting for custom functional foot orthotics was made.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Complete biomechanical examination and casting of the bilateral functional foot orthotics:**  
Overturned

**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 and Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Ankle and Foot Chapter, Orthotic devices

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 370, 371.

**Decision rationale:** After careful review of the enclosed information and the pertinent guidelines for this case, it is my feeling that the decision for a complete biomechanical examination and casting for bilateral functional foot orthotics is medically reasonable and necessary for this patient according to the guidelines. According to chapter 14 of the MTUS guidelines, rigid functional orthotics is recommended for patients who suffer with plantar fasciitis. Patient sustained a trauma to his foot which subsequently led to painful plantar fasciitis. According to the enclosed notes the plantar fasciitis has not resolved with treatments including oral anti-inflammatory medication, physical therapy, and acupuncture. Because this patient has failed prior treatments, it is very reasonable for him to obtain custom functional orthotics to control his foot biomechanical pathology and hopefully alleviate his painful plantar fasciitis.