

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0203760		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/15/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/03/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	02/03/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/24/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/04/2014

### 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 Podiatrist, 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, this patient underwent a left endoscopic plantar fasciotomy on 11/22/2013. On July 2, 2014 patient was evaluated by her podiatrist and noted to have severe plantar left foot pain. Diagnoses included plantar fasciitis with re-anastomosis of the plantar fascia. The podiatrist recommends another EPF left side. In a letter dated September 10, 2014 this patient's podiatrist requests further surgical correction of patient's re-anastomosis of left plantar fascia. The note goes on to say that this patient has severe pain to the plantar left foot caused by the re-anastomosis of the plantar fascia. The re-anastomosis is confirmed MRI (April 21, 2014). Pt is currently using a night splint, orthotics, and undergoing PT and cortisone injections.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Release of the Re-Anastomosis of the Plantar Fasciitis of the Left Foot:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Ankle & Foot (updated 10/29/14)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 370-371. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Ankle and Foot: Surgery for plantar fasciitis.

**Decision rationale:** After careful review of the enclosed information and the pertinent guidelines for this case, it is my feeling that the decision for release of the re-anastomoses of the plantar fascia left foot is not medically reasonable or necessary for this patient at this time. The enclosed progress notes do advise that this patient underwent an initial endoscopic plantar fasciectomy. It is also noted that this patient achieved 100% relief of pain to the left foot for some time. Unfortunately, the pain returned and the patient was again diagnosed with plantar fasciitis left side. MRI evaluation of this patient also noted a partial re-anastomosis of the left plantar fascia. The pertinent guidelines for this case advise that plantar fasciitis should be treated with supportive functional orthotics, comfortable soft shoes, local steroid injections, night splint, and physical therapy. While it is unfortunate that this patient's plantar fasciitis returned, there is no documented evidence that this patient has undergone a reasonable amount of conservative care (mentioned above) prior to another surgical correction. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.