

Case Number:	CM14-0204068		
Date Assigned:	12/16/2014	Date of Injury:	06/10/2013
Decision Date:	02/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/05/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular 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 patient is a 47-year-old woman who sustained a work-related injury on June 10, 2012. Subsequently, the patient developed a chronic neck and back pain and was diagnosed with tenosynovitis of foot and ankle. According to a progress report dated on October 29, 2014, the patient was complaining of residual ankle pain. The patient physical examination was not documented. The provider requested authorization for Cortizone ankle injection.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Cortizone injection ankle: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 377.

Decision rationale: According to MTUS guidelines, ankle Cortisone injection is indicated in case of point tenderness in the area of the heel, plantar fasciitis and Morton's neuroma. There is no clinical documentation provided by the treating physician supporting the use of cortisone injection in this case. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.