

Case Number:	CM14-0208292		
Date Assigned:	12/19/2014	Date of Injury:	10/01/2012
Decision Date:	02/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/26/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/11/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

46-year old employee with a reported industrial injury of 10/1/12. The claimant underwent a left elbow lateral epicondylar debridement and repair. MR Arthrogram of the left elbow on 10/30/2014 noted an intact common extensor repair with an intact anchor with some possible synovial overhang with a posterolateral soft spot but no loose bodies, arthritis or chondral defect seen. The claimant was last seen on 11/04/2014 by [REDACTED] noting tenderness at the posterior soft spot at the anconeus and minimal tenderness at the lateral epicondyle. The claimant declined consideration of a plasma rich protein injection and wanted the surgical treatment. She is currently working full duty, full time. Request is made for arthroscopy and debridement of posterolateral plica of the left elbow with assistant surgeon.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Arthroscopy and debridement of posterolateral plica of the left elbow and assistant surgeon: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.pubmed.gov: AM J Sports Med. 2006 Mar; 34 (3) Epub 2005 Dec 19

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Dodson CC, Nho SJ, Williams RJ 3rd, Altchek DW. Elbow arthroscopy. J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 2008 Oct;16(10):574-85. Review. PubMed PMID: 18832601.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of elbow arthroscopy. Alternative guidelines were utilized. Dodson et al in 2008 recommends arthroscopy for loose body removal, synovectomy and debridement and capsular release. There is inconclusive evidence of objective findings from the exam note of 11/4/14 or imaging findings from 10/30/14 to support arthroscopy of the elbow.