MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM15-0109670		
Date Assigned:	06/16/2015	Date of Injury:	04/02/2013
Decision Date:	07/15/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/15/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/08/2015

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: Oregon
Certification(s)/Specialty: Plastic Surgery, Hand 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:

The injured worker is a 58 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 4/2/13. The injured worker on May 7, 2015 was seen for left long finger trigger finger. The injured worker continues have pain and triggering into the left long finger. The diagnoses have included left long trigger finger with history of prior crush injury. Treatment to date has included occupational therapy and injections. The request was for post- operative keflex 500 mg #12.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Post operative Keflex 500 mg #12: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation J Hand Surg Am. 2011 Nov;36(11):1741-7. doi: 10.1016/j.jhsa.2011.08.005. Epub 2011 Oct 5.Assessing the impact of antibiotic prophylaxis in outpatient elective hand surgery: a single-center, retrospective review of 8,850 cases. Bykowski MR1, Sivak WN, Cray J, Buterbaugh G, Imbriglia JE, Lee WP. J Hand Surg Am. 2010

Feb;35(2):189-96. doi: 10.1016/j.jhsa.2009.11.012.Rate of infection after carpal tunnel release surgery and effect of antibiotic prophylaxis.Harness NG1, Inacio MC, Pfeil FF, Paxton LW.

Decision rationale: MTUS, ACOEM and ODG do not address indications for postoperative antibiotics after hand surgery. A study by Bykowski et al concluded, "Prophylactic antibiotic administration does not reduce the incidence of surgical site infections (SSI) after clean, elective hand surgery in an outpatient population. Moreover, subgroup analysis revealed that prophylactic antibiotics did not reduce the frequency of SSI among patients who were found to be at higher risk in this study." Harness et al found that prophylactic antibiotics did not decrease infection rate in hand surgery procedures shorter than one hour. Peer literature does not support the request for prophylactic antibiotics following trigger finger release. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.