

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0134691		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/29/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/18/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/27/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/26/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/13/2015

### 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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine

### 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 (IW) is a 56-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury 10/18/2014. Diagnoses/impressions include history of wound dehiscence at left Achilles tendon repair, healed; and mild, chronic edema/venous insufficiency at the area of previous trauma and surgery. Treatment to date has included a Cam walker boot, which caused more pressure on the wound, and Tubigrip. A left compression stocking was prescribed on 5/26/15 to reduce swelling in the leg and prevent re-opening of the left heel wound. The provider recommended the compression stocking be used long-term to control leg edema and prevent recurrent wounds. According to the wound management notes dated 6/12/15, the IW reported the scab fell off from the site of his Achilles tendon repair and he no longer had a wound. He was status post Achilles tendon repair and wound dehiscence. On examination, there was mild diffuse chronic edema and varicosities in the left lower leg and ankle. Ankle and foot pulses were palpable on the left. The previous ulceration site was completely healed and covered in slightly thick scar tissue. A request was made for a donning pole and a donning gel sleeve, which would assist the IW when putting on the left leg compression stocking.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Durable medical equipment (DME) donning pole:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee & Leg Chapter/Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS guidelines do not address the use of durable medical equipment (DME) donning pole, therefore, alternative guidelines were consulted. Per the ODG, DME is recommended generally if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of durable medical equipment (DME) below. Most bathroom and toilet supplies do not customarily serve a medical purpose and are primarily used for convenience in the home. Medical conditions that result in physical limitations for patients may require patient education and modifications to the home environment for prevention of injury, but environmental modifications are considered not primarily medical in nature. Certain DME toilet items (commodes, bedpans, etc.) are medically necessary if the patient is bed- or room-confined, and devices such as raised toilet seats, commode chairs, sitz baths and portable whirlpools may be medically necessary when prescribed as part of a medical treatment plan for injury, infection, or conditions that result in physical limitations. Many assistive devices, such as electric garage door openers, microwave ovens, and golf carts, were designed for the fully mobile, independent adult, and Medicare does not cover most of these items. The term DME is defined as equipment which: (1) Can withstand repeated use, i.e., could normally be rented, and used by successive patients; (2) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; (3) Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; & (4) Is appropriate for use in a patient's home. A donning pole is a compression stocking applicator. While the available documentation does support the use of compression stockings in this injured worker, it does not address the necessity of a device to assist with the application of the stockings. The request for durable medical equipment (DME) donning pole is not medically necessary.

**Durable medical equipment (DME) donning gel sleeve: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee & Leg Chapter/Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS guidelines do not address the use of durable medical equipment (DME), donning gel sleeve; therefore, alternative guidelines were consulted. Per the ODG, DME is recommended generally if there is a medical need and if the device or system meets Medicare's definition of durable medical equipment (DME) below. Most bathroom and toilet supplies do not customarily serve a medical purpose and are primarily used for convenience in the home. Medical conditions that result in physical limitations for patients may require patient education and modifications to the home environment for prevention of injury, but environmental modifications are considered not primarily medical in nature. Certain

DME toilet items (commodes, bedpans, etc.) are medically necessary if the patient is bed- or room-confined, and devices such as raised toilet seats, commode chairs, sitz baths and portable whirlpools may be medically necessary when prescribed as part of a medical treatment plan for injury, infection, or conditions that result in physical limitations. Many assistive devices, such as electric garage door openers, microwave ovens, and golf carts, were designed for the fully mobile, independent adult, and Medicare does not cover most of these items. The term DME is defined as equipment which: (1) Can withstand repeated use, i.e., could normally be rented, and used by successive patients; (2) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose; (3) Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; & (4) Is appropriate for use in a patient's home. A donning gel sleeve is a compression stocking assistive device used when a patient has sensitive fingers. While the available documentation does support the use of compression stockings in this injured worker, it does not address the necessity of a device to assist with the application of the stockings. The request for durable medical equipment (DME) donning gel sleeve is not medically necessary.