

Case Number:	CM15-0137019		
Date Assigned:	07/27/2015	Date of Injury:	06/01/2013
Decision Date:	09/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/15/2015

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: Texas, Florida, 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 is a 54 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 6-01-2013 as a result of repetitive lifting. Diagnoses include synovitis and tenosynovitis other and right medial elbow epicondylitis. Treatment to date has included modified work, physical therapy and cortisone injections. Per the Primary Treating Physician's Progress Report dated 5-26-2015 the injured worker reported right elbow pain. She reported no significant improvement in the right medial elbow. It is still tender to touch and pain with resisted wrist flexion. Physical examination revealed tenderness to the medial epicondyle but not the lateral epicondyle. The plan of care included diagnostics and authorization was requested for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the right elbow without contrast.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) without contrast of the right elbow: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 10 Elbow Disorders (Revised 2007) Page(s): 601-602.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Elbow, under MRI.

Decision rationale: This claimant was injured in 2013. Diagnoses include synovitis, tenosynovitis and right medial elbow epicondylitis. As of May 2015, there is elbow pain with no improvement. There was tenderness to the medial epicondyle but not the lateral epicondyle. There were no objective orthopedic signs noted suggestive of internal derangement. The current California web-based MTUS collection was reviewed in addressing this request. The guidelines are silent in regards to this request. Therefore, in accordance with state regulation, other evidence-based or mainstream peer-reviewed guidelines will be examined. Regarding Elbow MRI, the ODG notes: 1) Chronic elbow pain, suspect intra-articular osteocartilaginous body; plain films nondiagnostic; 2) Chronic elbow pain, suspect occult injury; e.g., osteochondral injury; plain films-nondiagnostic; 3) Chronic elbow pain, suspect unstable osteochondral injury; plain films nondiagnostic; 4) Chronic elbow pain, suspect nerve entrapment or mass; plain films nondiagnostic; 5) Chronic elbow pain, suspect chronic epicondylitis; plain films nondiagnostic; 6) Chronic elbow pain, suspect collateral ligament tear; plain films nondiagnostic; 7) Chronic elbow pain, suspect biceps tendon tear and/or bursitis; plain films nondiagnostic. Plain films are not noted; and there are no orthopedic signs suggestive of internal derangement on the reported physical examination to warrant moving on to an MRI. The request is not certifiable and therefore is not medically necessary.