

Case Number:	CM15-0142651		
Date Assigned:	08/03/2015	Date of Injury:	10/25/2013
Decision Date:	09/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/22/2015

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, New York
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Podiatrist

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 69 year old male, who sustained work related trauma on 10-25-13. The injured worker has complaints of right ankle pain. The documentation noted that the right ankle has decreased motion. The diagnoses have included tear of the peroneous longus; painful screw of sinus tarsi; internal derangement and ankyloses of sinus tarsi, the region being palpably tender. Treatment to date has included right ankle X-rays on 2-24-15 showed a status post fixation, healed fracture of the distal tibia and fibular with mild degenerative changes in the ankle joint, there is a small spur noted on the anterior aspect of the os calcis; open reduction, internal fixation of fibula and injections. The record indicates that the patient was previously responsive to conservative measures including a velocity brace. The request was for arthrotomy of sinus tarsal with neurectomy and repair of peroneal tendons, right foot quantity 1.00.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Arthrotomy of sinus tarsal with neurectomy and repair of peroneal tendons, right foot
QTY: 1.00: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Ankle & Foot.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines 9792.20, Ankle and Foot Complaints, Post Surgical Treatment Guidelines, Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, Table 14-1, 14-2, 14-3, 14-5, 14-6 Page(s): 13, 14, 362-3, 365-368, 370, 373-375. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation 1. Foot Ankle Int. 1997 Mar;18(3):163-9. Treatment algorithm of chronic ankle and subtalar instability. Thermann H1, Zwipp H, Tscherne H. 2. Taha I, et al. Articular cartilage lesions in ankles with lateral ligament injury. An arthroscopic study. Am J Sport Med 1993; 1:120-6. 3. Dombek MF, et al. Peroneal tendon tears: a retrospective review. J Foot Ankle Surg 2003;42:250-8.

Decision rationale: The injured worker is a 69 year old male, who sustained work related trauma on 10-25-13. The injured worker has complaints of right ankle pain. The documentation noted that the right ankle has decreased motion. The diagnoses have included tear of the peroneous longus; painful screw of sinus tarsi; internal derangement and ankyloses of sinus tarsi, the region being palpably tender. Treatment to date has included right ankle X-rays on 2-24-15 showed a status post fixation, healed fracture of the distal tibia and fibular with mild degenerative changes in the ankle joint, there is a small spur noted on the anterior aspect of the os calcis; open reduction, internal fixation of fibula and injections. The record indicates that the patient was previously responsive to conservative measures including a velocity brace. The request was for arthrotomy of sinus tarsal with neurectomy and repair of peroneal tendons, right foot quantity 1.00.