

Case Number:	CM15-0167324		
Date Assigned:	09/08/2015	Date of Injury:	02/25/2014
Decision Date:	10/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/14/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/25/2015

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, Oregon, Washington
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:

This 22 year old man sustained an industrial injury on 2-25-2014. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Evaluations include an undated left ankle CT scan and undated left ankle x-rays. Diagnoses include syndesmotic injury with anterior talofibular ligament tear and avulsion, and painful hardware. Treatment has included oral medications and surgical intervention. Physician notes dated 8-4-2015 show complaints of left ankle pain and locking. Recommendations include further surgical intervention.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Open reduction internal fixation for left fibula ankle stabilization: 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), Ankle, Open reduction internal fixation.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Ankle section, open reduction and internal fixation.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of open reduction and internal fixation. Per the ODG, Ankle section, open reduction and internal fixation, "Recommended as an option for fractures when radiographic evidence indicates a displaced fracture or comminuted fracture, or an open fracture with bone protrusion. Open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) is a method of surgically repairing a fractured bone, in which surgery is used to reduce or set the fracture fragments and then hardware (such as a rod, plate and/or nails) is then implanted to hold the reduction in place." In this case, the CT scan from 6/6/15 does not demonstrate a fracture nonunion. It shows a healed ankle fracture after operative fixation. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.