

Case Number:	CM15-0168901		
Date Assigned:	09/09/2015	Date of Injury:	04/21/2014
Decision Date:	10/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/03/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/27/2015

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: North Carolina

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 44-year-old female, with a reported date of injury of 04-21-2014. The diagnoses include left middle finger disruption of flexor tendon sheath pulley system, left ring finger pain with possible ulnar digital nerve adhesions, possible metacarpophalangeal joint bone spur in the left ring finger, left hand severe crush injury involving the hand and multiple fingers, left ring finger mangled with vascular compromise, left middle finger decrease perfusion on the tip, third metacarpal fracture, left middle finger fracture of distal phalanx and open PIP (proximal interphalangeal) joint with bone and tissue loss, left ring finger laceration of extensor tendons and flexor tendons through the PIP joint level, and status post A2-A3 pulley reconstruction of the left middle finger and excision of neuroma of the left ring finger. Treatments and evaluation to date have included left middle finger exploration, reconstruction of flexor pulleys with flexor digitorum superficialis tendon and left ring finger exploration with fluoroscopy, microscopic exploration of ulnar nerve and excision of neuroma on 02-23-2015; hand therapy; and oral anti-inflammatory medication. The diagnostic studies to date were not included in the medical records provided for review. The progress report dated 06-29-2015 indicates that the injured worker stated that her middle finger remained the same. The tightness in the shoulders was improving. The objective findings include no changes in the hand and the continuation of taking Ibuprofen, which had not relieved the pain. The injured worker had been instructed to perform modified duties with restrictions of no heavy gripping and no lifting greater than 10 pounds. The request for authorization was dated 07-27-2015. The medical report from which the request originates was not included in the medical records provided for review. The treating physician requested a CT scan of the left hand. On 07-31-2015, Utilization Review non-certified the request for a CT scan of the left hand.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CT scan of the left hand: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints 2004, Section(s): Special Studies.

Decision rationale: The ACOEM chapter on wrist and hand complaints and special diagnostic imaging Table 11-6 does not recommend MRI of the wrist/ hand except the case of carpal tunnel syndrome or suspected infection. There is no documentation of expected infection or carpal tunnel syndrome. Therefore criteria set forth by the ACOEM for hand MRI have not been met and the request is not certified, therefore is not medically necessary.