

Case Number:	CM15-0193085		
Date Assigned:	10/07/2015	Date of Injury:	03/01/2000
Decision Date:	11/18/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/19/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/01/2015

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: Georgia

Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain Management

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 male, who sustained an industrial injury on 3-1-00. The injured worker was diagnosed as having bilateral ankle posttraumatic arthritis, history of multiple bilateral ankle surgeries, and status post-right ankle plantar arthrodesis with external fixation on 8-3-12. Treatment to date has included multiple ankle surgeries and the use of orthotics. On 8-10-15, physical examination findings included tenderness with direct palpation of the anterior right ankle region along the scar line. Left ankle generalized swelling and decreased dorsiflexion and plantar flexion was noted. On 8-10-15, the injured worker complained of ankle pain. The treating physician requested authorization for a replacement of total contact soft orthotics and 1 pair of work boots replacement. On 9-19-15, the requests were non-certified.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 replacement of total contact soft orthotics: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Ankle and Foot Complaints 2004, Section(s): Physical Methods, Activity Alteration, Summary.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Ankle and Foot Complaints 2004, Section(s): Initial Assessment, Physical Methods.

Decision rationale: 1 replacement of total contact soft orthotics is medically necessary. Orthotics are devices developed to assist, resist, facilitate, stabilize or improve range of motion and functional capacity of the foot and ankle. Initial conservative care includes immobilization, physical therapy, steroid injection therapy and/or use of orthotics. Long term conservative care involves improving the biomechanical function of this area best achieved with a custom made foot orthosis; therefore, 1 replacement of total contact soft orthotics is medically necessary given the most recent physical exam has shown the previous orthosis has worn out.

1 pair of work boots replacement: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Ankle and Foot Complaints 2004, Section(s): Summary, Physical Methods.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Ankle and Foot Complaints 2004, Section(s): Initial Care, Physical Methods.

Decision rationale: 1 pair of work boots replacement is medically necessary. Orthotics are devices developed to assist, resist, facilitate, stabilize or improve range of motion and functional capacity of the foot and ankle. Initial conservative care includes immobilization, physical therapy, steroid injection therapy and/or use of orthotics. Long term conservative care involves improving the biomechanical function of this area best achieved with a custom made foot orthosis; therefore, 1 pair of work boots replacement is medically necessary given the most recent physical exam has shown the previous orthosis has worn out.