

Case Number:	CM15-0028609		
Date Assigned:	02/20/2015	Date of Injury:	02/21/2013
Decision Date:	04/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/10/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/17/2015

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: Utah, Arkansas

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 40 year old male, who sustained a work/ industrial injury on 2/21/13 due to cumulative trauma. He has reported symptoms of intermittent pain in both hands, hearing a popping sound when wrists are moved. Prior medical history included hypertension and hypercholesterolemia. Surgeries included right knee arthroscopy in 1999 and 2001. The diagnoses have included carpal tunnel syndrome. Treatments to date included conservative treatment, bilateral wrist braces, physical therapy (6 sessions), and home exercise program. Diagnostics included an electromyogram on 4/2013 that noted mild bilateral median and ulnar sensory neuropathies across both wrists consistent with mild bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome. Medications included Norco. Examination noted decreased sensation, positive Phalen's, Tinel's and median nerve compression tests. Grip strength is right 38/36/36 and left 32/30/32. Surgery was planned with request for pre-operative medical clearance and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) Sequential device. On 2/10/15, Utilization Review non-certified an Outpatient Pre-operative medical clearance; DVT Sequential device, noting Non MTUS, ACOEM Guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Outpatient Pre-operative medical clearance: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines I am unable to use current guidelines due to the nature of the request.

Decision rationale: MTUS treatment guidelines do not specifically discuss pre-op clearance, and due to the nature of the request guidelines were not used. The request as written is not indicated as the individual's labs and tests must be specifically requested. According to the clinical documentation provided, Pre-op clearance is not indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.

DVT Sequential device: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Dynamed - Deep Vein Thrombosis prophylaxis.

Decision rationale: MTUS treatment guidelines are silent with regards to the above request. Other guidelines were reviewed in regards to this specific case, and the clinical documents were reviewed. The request is for DVT sequential device. Guidelines state the following: DVT prophylaxis is recommended for general and abdominal surgery. The clinical documents state that the patient is about to have surgery. According to the clinical documentation provided and current guidelines, DVT sequential device is indicated as a medical necessity to the patient at this time.