

Case Number:	CM15-0219961		
Date Assigned:	11/13/2015	Date of Injury:	05/16/2014
Decision Date:	12/22/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/09/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/09/2015

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: New York, Pennsylvania, Washington
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine

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 32 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on May 16, 2014. The worker is being treated for: bilateral epicondylitis; CMTS right elbow mild and bilateral CTS along with bilateral DeQuervain's and history for back pain. Subjective: January 13, 2015 she reported pain to bilateral elbow, wrist and hands accompanied with spasms and radiating pains. January 12, 2015 she reported at therapy session "improvement with therapy," would like it continued as there's "less numbness and tingling," after therapy session; January 22, 2015 she reported having constant numbness and tingling to bilateral hands. Objective: January 13, 2015 noted bilateral hands, wrist with spasm and tenderness to palpation. January 22, 2015 noted positive Finkelstein's still present bilateral wrists' "but not as tender, PT helped." Diagnostic: Documentation noted on November 18, 2014 she underwent FCE; July 09, 2014 noted EMG NCV testing done; April 16, 2015 noted MRI bilateral upper extremity and joint performed. Medication: January 29, 2015, February 13, 2015 prescribed Motrin 800mg BID for pain. March 2015, June 17, 2015 follow up prescribed Lidocaine patch 5% for pain. Treatment: Documentation showed January 13, 2015 acupuncture evaluation and session 6; January 22, 2015 noted request for injection to right medial elbow and additional acupuncture and PT (since TX was helping a lot); work duty modified prescribed; February 11, 2015, March 05, 2015(left), April 30, 2015 (left) noted right elbow injection administered (noted with one hour of relief); March 01, 2015 noted hand therapy sessions 12 certified. On October 02, 2015 a request was made for a DVT max and pneumatic compression wraps that was noncertified on October 09, 2015 by Utilization Review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

DVT max and pneumatic compression wraps: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Knee and Leg (Venous Thrombus) (2015).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Uptodate: Prevention of venous thromboembolic disease in surgical patients.

Decision rationale: Intermittent Pneumatic Compression is used as an alternative for venous thromboembolism prevention in those with a high risk of bleeding or in whom anticoagulation is contraindicated. However, data supporting the use of this for the prevention of venous thromboembolism in surgical patients is limited. This worker has no documented history of a contraindication to anticoagulation and is not at high risk given. The request is not medically necessary or substantiated in the records.