

Case Number:	CM15-0036774		
Date Assigned:	03/05/2015	Date of Injury:	12/15/2011
Decision Date:	04/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/28/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/26/2015

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 Jersey
 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 60-year-old female, with a reported date of injury of 12/15/2011. The diagnoses include status post right shoulder rotator cuff repair and Mumford and shoulder impingement. Treatments have included a home exercise program, an x-ray of the right shoulder, and medications. The progress report dated 01/09/2015 indicates that the injured worker complained of right shoulder pain with popping, clicking, and weakness. The objective findings of the right shoulder included positive impingement, flexion at 100 degrees, extension at 36 degrees, abduction at 90 degrees, adduction at 30 degrees, internal rotation at 60 degrees, and external rotation at 70 degrees. The treating physician requested a surgical consultation in consideration of a right reversal total shoulder replacement. On 01/23/2015, Utilization Review (UR) modified the request for a surgical consultation in consideration of a right reversal total shoulder replacement, noting that a consultation for a shoulder replacement is medically appropriate, which should decide whether a reverse shoulder replacement or a standard arthroplasty was medically appropriate or whether further conservative therapy was appropriate. The UR physician certified a consultation with an Orthopedist who does shoulder arthroplasty procedures for the right shoulder. The ACOEM Guidelines and the non-MTUS Integrated Treatment/Disability Duration Guidelines were cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Surgical consultation in consideration of reverse total shoulder replacement; right shoulder: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Indications for surgery.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints
Page(s): 127.

Decision rationale: The MTUS/ACOEM Guidelines state that referral to a specialist(s) may be warranted if a diagnosis is uncertain, or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise in assessing therapeutic management, determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or examinee's fitness for return to work, and suggests that an independent assessment from a consultant may be useful in analyzing causation or when prognosis, degree of impairment, or work capacity requires clarification. In the case of this worker, consideration of getting advice and direction from a shoulder surgeon is warranted based on the documentation of signs and symptoms related to the worker's right shoulder. Since this request was for a consultation and not for a specific surgery, it will be approved and considered medically necessary. The decision for surgery and type of surgery will be based on the surgeon's opinion and follow-up review after the consultation.