

Case Number:	CM15-0044141		
Date Assigned:	04/14/2015	Date of Injury:	04/05/2003
Decision Date:	05/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/09/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/09/2015

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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery, Hand Surgery, Sports 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 male, who sustained an industrial injury on 4/5/03. The documentation noted that he had decided not to come back because the mass was doing just fine even though it was growing, however he returned on 1/5/15 with complaints of the same mass is now larger and causing him difficulty wearing gloves and pain at the base of his nail bed. He denies any numbness or tingling in this finger and he has near full range of motion at the thumb. The diagnoses have included thumb pain, right and mass of right finger. X-rays of the thumb were taken showed non-discrete calcification just dorsal to the distal phalanx of the thumb. The request was for right thumb mass excision with nail bed excision.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right thumb mass excision with nail bed excision: 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 Green's Operative Hand Surgery, 6th ed. Chapter 65 - Bone and Soft Tissue Tumors Epidermal inclusion cysts discussed on page 2166.

Decision rationale: In this case, the injured worker developed a growing painful mass thumb mass after a 2003 injury which required surgical treatment. The mass was noted by the treating surgeon in 2010 and removal was recommended at that time, but it was tolerable until recently. The injured worker has provided photos of the large thumb mass which was removed on February 6, 2015 and was noted on pathologic examination to be consistent with a ruptured follicular cyst with associated giant cell reaction and calcification. The treatment is beyond the scope of the CA MTUS primary occupational treatment guidelines; rather this is appropriate long term follow-up and treatment by the hand surgeon which has treated the injured worker since the 2003 accident.