

Case Number:	CM15-0054171		
Date Assigned:	03/27/2015	Date of Injury:	02/20/2007
Decision Date:	05/01/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/23/2015

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: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 65 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on February 20, 2007. The injured worker was diagnosed as having right shoulder rotator cuff reconstruction and left shoulder rotator cuff reconstruction. Treatment and diagnostic studies to date have included surgery. A progress note dated February 25, 2015 provides the injured worker complains of right and left shoulder pain. Physical exam notes well healed surgical scars bilaterally on shoulders. The plan includes magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), oral medication and medication patches.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CT arthrogram of the right shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Arthrography Shoulder, Shoulder (Acute & Chronic).

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines, shoulder arthrography is recommended as listed below. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and arthrography have fairly similar diagnostic and therapeutic impact and comparable accuracy, although MRI is more sensitive and less specific. Magnetic resonance imaging may be the preferred investigation because of its better demonstration of soft tissue anatomy. Subtle tears that are full thickness are best imaged by arthrography, whereas larger tears and partial-thickness tears are best defined by MRI. Conventional arthrography can diagnose most rotator cuff tears accurately; however, in many institutions MR arthrography is usually necessary to diagnose labral tears. CT arthrogram of the right shoulder is not medically necessary.

CT arthrogram of the left shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Arthrography Shoulder, Shoulder (Acute & Chronic).

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines, shoulder arthrography is recommended as listed below. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and arthrography have fairly similar diagnostic and therapeutic impact and comparable accuracy, although MRI is more sensitive and less specific. Magnetic resonance imaging may be the preferred investigation because of its better demonstration of soft tissue anatomy. Subtle tears that are full thickness are best imaged by arthrography, whereas larger tears and partial-thickness tears are best defined by MRI. Conventional arthrography can diagnose most rotator cuff tears accurately; however, in many institutions MR arthrography is usually necessary to diagnose labral tears. CT arthrogram of the left shoulder is not medically necessary.