

Case Number:	CM15-0055024		
Date Assigned:	03/30/2015	Date of Injury:	08/19/2003
Decision Date:	05/04/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/09/2015
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: New York
Certification(s)/Specialty: Podiatrist

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 65 year old male injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 08/19/2003. The diagnoses included bilateral onychomycosis of the toe nails. The injured worker had been treated with physical therapy and prior nail ablation. On 12/26/2015 the treating provider reported successful toe nail laser ablation. The treatment plan included Laser for Nail Ablation for Bilateral Feet.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Laser for Nail Ablation for Bilateral Feet: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Laser Surgery and Medicine 1997; 21(2) pgs 186-192. Ablation of the Human Nail by Pulsed Laser, Neev, JT, et al.

Decision rationale: After careful review of the enclosed information and the pertinent guidelines for this case, it is my feeling that the laser for nail ablation for this patient is not medically necessary or reasonable at this time. Current medical thinking and guidelines for the use of laser on onychomycotic toenails has not been established to be superior to the use of topical medications and oral antifungal medications.