

Case Number:	CM15-0056580		
Date Assigned:	04/01/2015	Date of Injury:	10/13/2000
Decision Date:	05/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/04/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/25/2015

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: Texas, Arizona

Certification(s)/Specialty: Surgery, Plastic Surgery

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 49-year-old male who reported injury on 10/13/2000. The mechanism of injury was not provided. The injured worker was noted to have multiple pressure ulcers, and is a paraplegic. Additionally, the injured worker was noted to be status post renal transplant. The most recent documentation submitted for review was dated 11/21/2014. The documentation indicated that there was no viable tissue consisting of epidermis dermis, subcutaneous tissue, muscle or bone. The periwound appearance was intact and macerated on wound 1, 2, and 3. Wound 4 was intact. The amount of fibrin was less than 25% on all wounds. The amount of granulation was at least 50% on all wounds. There was no necrosis with the exception of the 4th wound on the sacrum. The wound in the sacrum was noted to be 3.5 cm x 2.0 cm x 0.1 cm and the wound on the left hip was noted to be 2.0 cm x 2.2 cm x 1.1 cm. The wound on the left ischium was noted to be 5.0 cm x 1.5 cm x 2.1 cm and on the right ischium was noted to be 10.0 cm x 5.0 cm x 3.5 cm. The wound in the bilateral ischium and the sacrum were noted to have yellow drainage. The wound on the right ischium and the sacrum were noted to have serosanguineous drainage. The wound bed on the right ischium was noted to be pink and red. The wound bed on the left ischium was note to be white and gray with pink and red as was the wound on the left hip and the wound on the sacrum was noted to be yellow fibrinous pink and red in the wound bed. The injured worker's diagnoses were noted to include type 1 diabetes mellitus, end stage renal disease, decubitus ulcer of the sacral region, immunosuppression, paraplegia

following spinal cord injury, secondary hyperparathyroidism renal, pathologic fracture femur, and osteomyelitis of thigh, left acute as well as neurogenic urinary bladder disorder.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Epifix skin (72 sq cm): Upheld

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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Diabetes Chapter, Amniotic Membrane Allograft.

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines indicate that wound healing for diabetic ulcers was better with weekly applications of dehydrated human amniotic membrane allograft including Epifix. It is recommended as an option for diabetic ulcers. The clinical documentation submitted for review indicated the injured worker was a diabetic. However, the request as submitted failed to indicate the body part to be treated with the Epifix. There was no physician documentation or rationale for the use of Epifix to support the necessity. Given the above, the request for Epifix skin (72 sq cm) is not medically necessary.