

Case Number:	CM15-0082161		
Date Assigned:	05/04/2015	Date of Injury:	03/25/1987
Decision Date:	07/02/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/04/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/29/2015

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: Otolaryngology

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 an 85 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 3/25/1987. The mechanism of injury was not provided for review. The injured worker was diagnosed as having profound sensori-neural hearing loss. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included surgery and cochlear implant. In a progress note dated 3/23, the injured worker complains of improperly functioning cochlear implant. The treating physician is requesting replacement of a right cochlear implant sound processor.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Replacement right cochlear implant sound processor: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Head Chapter, Hearing aids section.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Advanced Bionics currently offers repair and refurbishment of the Platinum PSP processor - per their customer service department.

Decision rationale: Patient's current processor is still able to be repaired. Per Advanced Bionics customer service - she can receive a refurbished processor with a 6 months warranty for \$699. As such, a new processor is not medically necessary.