

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0082322		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	05/04/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/14/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/03/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/08/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	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: Massachusetts

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

### 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 43 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 01/14/2013. Current diagnoses include aftercare for musculoskeletal surgery and tarsal tunnel syndrome. Previous treatments included medication management and ankle fusion. Report dated 03/26/2015 noted that the injured worker presented with complaints that included ankle pain. Pain level was not included. Physical examination was positive for abnormal findings. The treatment plan included initiation of pain program, and request for natural anti-inflammatory with tumeric (Curcumin). The injured worker noted that he feels a reduction in pain and can walk further with the use of Tumeric. Disputed treatments include natural anti-inflammatory with tumeric (Curcumin).

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Natural anti-inflammatory with tumeric (Curimen): Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain (Chronic).

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain (Chronic), Curcumin (turmeric).

**Decision rationale:** The claimant is more than two years status post work-related injury and continues to be treated for ankle pain. Treatments included an ankle fusion in August 2014. When seen, he has an antalgic gait and foot tenderness. The claimant had started taking Curcumin on his own three times per day. He had decreased pain and improved walking tolerance. He was questioning whether they would be paid for under Workers Compensation. Curcumin (turmeric) is recommended as an option given its low risk, in patients with moderate pain, and there is no harm in having patients continue these preparations as long as they perceive benefit and cover the costs of these OTC treatments themselves. In this case, the claimant has benefitted from this product and can continue to use it. Authorization under Workers Compensation is not needed and therefore not medically necessary.