

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0086824		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	05/11/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/17/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/16/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/21/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/06/2015

### 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: Pennsylvania

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine, Hospice & Palliative 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 44 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on October 17, 2014. He reported a right hand injury. The initial diagnoses and results of the injury include laceration, tendon injury, multiple fractures, and open fracture of one or more phalanges of the right hand. The injured worker was currently diagnosed as having open fractures of the right hand and diabetes. He was status post right index, middle, and ring finger incision and drainage, and open reduction and internal fixation. Diagnostic studies to date have included x-rays and fluoroscopy. On February 18, 2015, fluoroscopic studies of the right hand revealed a fully healed distal interphalangeal joint fusion of the middle finger and middle phalanx fracture. Treatment to date has included surgery, splinting, wound care, occupational therapy, and pain medication. On April 1, 2015, the injured worker complains of pain and stiffness in the right index, middle, and ring fingers. His pain was rated 2/10 at rest and 8/10 with activity. Associated symptoms include pain and hypersensitivity of the fingertips and decreased dexterity for simple activities such as doing up zips, snaps, and buttons. He is unable to power grip, grasp, and squeeze due the hand sensitivity. The physical exam revealed abnormality of the right hand with scarring of the right index, middle, and ring fingertips. The nail of the middle finger has failed to grow. There was stiffness of the right index, middle, and ring fingertips. The metacarpophalangeal joint range of motion of the affected fingers was mildly decreased, and the proximal and distal interphalangeal joints range of motion was significant decreased. The right hand finger pads sensation was normal. The right hand grip strength was decreased at 5 psi. The

treatment plan includes labs: complete blood count, complete metabolic profile, and liver function panel for a baseline to continue medications.

### **IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES**

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

**Labs: Complete Blood Count (CBC), Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP), Liver Function Panel/Baseline:** 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 Chemistry panels.  
<http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/chem-panel/tab/glance>. Accessed 06/14/2015. Complete blood count (CBC). Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia.  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003642.htm>. Accessed 06/14/2015.

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS Guidelines are silent on this issue in this clinical situation. A comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP) is a group of blood tests that generally look at the salt balance in the blood, blood sugar level, kidney function, and liver function. A complete blood count (CBC) is a panel of laboratory blood tests that look closely at the components of the blood in several different ways. Platelets are elements in the blood that aid in clotting to stop bleeding. The submitted and reviewed documentation indicated the worker was experiencing pain and stiffness in the right fingers 1, 2, and 3. These records did not mention signs or symptoms suggesting a problem that would be shown with these panels of blood tests or indicate the worker was taking a medication that required monitoring with all of these studies. There was no discussion suggesting the reason this panel of blood tests was necessary in this setting. In the absence of such evidence, the current request for a comprehensive metabolic panel, a complete blood count, and platelet testing is not medically necessary.