



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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Knee and Leg, Hardware implant removal.

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of hardware removal. ODG, Elbow section, is silent on hardware removal. According to the ODG Knee and Leg, Hardware implant removal, "Not recommend the routine removal of hardware implanted for fracture fixation, except in the case of broken hardware or persistent pain, after ruling out other causes of pain such as infection and nonunion. Not recommended solely to protect against allergy, carcinogenesis, or metal detection. Although hardware removal is commonly done, it should not be considered a routine procedure." There is insufficient evidence to support hardware removal in this case from the cited clinical documentation from 4/2/15. There is no evidence of broken hardware, or conservative care failing leading to persistent pain. Therefore, the determination is not medically necessary.