

Case Number:	CM14-0117794		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	10/03/2011
Decision Date:	10/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/25/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in California. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

A 32 year old male claimant with reported industrial injury on 10/3/11 is status post ankle arthroscopy and peroneus brevis and longus tenosynovectomy. Exam note from 6/24/14 demonstrates right ankle range of motion of 10 degrees of dorsiflexion and 20 degrees of plantar flexion. Ankle is noted to be supple and stable on examination. Patient is diagnosed with tenosynovitis of the foot and ankle. MRI left ankle 7/1/13 demonstrates unremarkable examination. Request is made for lace up ankle brace for purchase.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Lace up ankle brace for purchase: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Ankle & Foot (updated 03/26/2014), Bracing (immobilization)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (ODG) ODG, Ankle and Foot, Bracing

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of ankle bracing. According to the ODG, Ankle and Foot section, Bracing, it is not recommended in the absence of a clearly unstable joint. It states that functional treatment appears to be a favorable strategy for treating

acute ankle sprains when compared with immobilization. As the exam note from 6/24/14 does not demonstrate instability, the determination is for denial. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.