

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0124950		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/25/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	03/18/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	10/27/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/30/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/07/2014

### 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:

The claimant is a 41-year-old gentleman who sustained an injury to the left foot and ankle on 03/25/13. The records provided for review documented that the claimant has failed considerable conservative care. As of the clinical assessment dated 04/02/14, the claimant continued to have foot pain. The diagnosis was plantar fasciitis, calcaneal spurring and Achilles tendinosis. The treating physician recommended calcaneal spur removal and debridement of the Achilles tendon. The medical records do not identify any underlying comorbidities, significant past medical history or current medication usage. This review is for multiple perioperative requests for this otherwise healthy 41-year-old individual.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Preoperative history and physical examination:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004), Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127.

**Decision rationale:** California ACOEM Guidelines do not recommend the request for a preoperative history and physical examination in preparation for surgery. The records in this case indicate that the individual is an otherwise healthy 41-year-old gentleman with no indication of past medical history or underlying comorbidities. The role of preoperative history and physical examination or medical consultation in this otherwise healthy individual undergoing a calcaneal spur removal and debridement of the Achilles tendon would not be indicated as medically necessary.