

Case Number:	CM14-0128045		
Date Assigned:	08/18/2014	Date of Injury:	10/09/2012
Decision Date:	11/04/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/23/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/13/2014

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:

This is a 42-year-old male with a 10/9/12 date of injury. He injured his shoulder when he grabbed a heavy pipe to prevent it from falling and injured both shoulders. According to the most recent progress note provided for review, dated 2/10/14, the patient was seen for his pre-operative appointment for right shoulder arthroscopy scheduled on 2/18/14. He presented with bilateral shoulder pain, right worse than left, at the lateral aspects and numbness/tingling at the ulnar aspects of his forearms and small and index fingers. Objective findings: limited to vital signs and review of systems, no abnormal findings. Diagnostic impression: left shoulder subacromial impingement and bursitis, status post arthroscopy and decompression in May of 2013, right shoulder continued pain with negative MRI. Treatment to date: medication management, activity modification, physical therapy, surgery. A UR decision dated 7/23/14 denied the request for DVT/Intermittent Pneumatic compression device rental with purchase of half leg appliances. The patient's pre-operative evaluation and initial consultation did not disclose any history of DVT or risk factors for DVT, and the doctor did not request the device pre-operatively, despite requesting other DME.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective request for DVT/ Intermittent Pneumatic compression device rental with purchase of half leg appliances for the bilateral lower extremities dispensed on DOS 02/18/2014 following a right shoulder surgery: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Treatment Index, 12th Edition (web), 2014, Shoulder - Venous Thrombosis

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee and Leg Chapter

Decision rationale: CA MTUS does not address this issue. ODG states that continuous-flow cryotherapy is recommended as an option after surgery, but not for nonsurgical treatment. Postoperative use generally may be up to 7 days, including home use. However, ODG states that while there are studies on continuous-flow cryotherapy, there are no published high quality studies on the Game Ready device or any other combined system. However, in the present case, there is no rationale identifying why a cryotherapy unit would be insufficient. In addition, there is no documentation of a history of DVT or established risk factors for DVT. Therefore, the request for Retrospective request for DVT/ Intermittent Pneumatic compression device rental with purchase of half leg appliances for the bilateral lower extremities dispensed on DOS 02/18/2014 following a right shoulder surgery was not medically necessary.