

Case Number:	CM14-0149056		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	02/10/2014
Decision Date:	10/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/13/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 39-year-old female with a 2/10/14 date of injury. At the time (7/15/14 and 6/25/14) of request for authorization for initial functional capacity evaluation for the left middle finger, there is documentation of subjective complaints include left hand middle finger pain with hypersensitivity and loss of range of motion. The objective findings include left hand middle finger severe laceration of the volar tip. The current diagnoses are left middle finger near amputation of the tip. The treatments to date include physical therapy and medications. There is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Initial Functional Capacity Evaluation for the Left Middle Finger: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, 2nd Edition, Chapter 7 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 132-139; Official Disability Guidelines Fitness for Duty (updated 03/26/14), Functional capacity evaluation (FCE)

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) Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page(s) 137-138; Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Fitness For Duty, Functional capacity evaluation (FCE)

Decision rationale: MTUS reference to ACOEM guidelines identifies that functional capacity evaluations (FCE) may establish physical abilities and also facilitate the examinee/employer relationship for return to work. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) identifies documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful return to work (RTW) attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (Close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a functional capacity evaluation. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of a diagnosis of left middle finger near amputation of the tip. However, there is no documentation indicating case management is hampered by complex issues (prior unsuccessful RTW attempts, conflicting medical reporting on precautions and/or fitness for modified job, injuries that require detailed exploration of a worker's abilities); and timing is appropriate (Close to or at MMI/all key medical reports secured and additional/secondary conditions have been clarified). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for initial functional capacity evaluation for the left middle finger is not medically necessary.