

Case Number:	CM14-0165973		
Date Assigned:	10/13/2014	Date of Injury:	04/29/2013
Decision Date:	11/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/08/2014

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 New York. 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 patient is a 33-year-old male with a date of injury of August 29, 2013. The patient is being treated for chronic right ankle instability. Physical exam shows pain and swelling and reduce ankle range of motion. There is anterior talofibular and calcaneofibular ligament laxity. The patient is scheduled for right ankle diagnostic arthroscopy and ligament repair. At issue is whether a home health aide is medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One (1) post-surgery home health aid, 8 hours a day, 5 days a week for 2 weeks: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

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

Decision rationale: The medical records do not document the fact that this patient needs a home health aide. Specifically, the patient is having ankle surgery. The medical records do not document the patient will be confined to the home in need of custodial care. Guidelines indicate that the patient must find to the home and the services must be approved by the attending physician. Since the patient is having ankle surgery and should be able to be mobile on crutches,

there is no need for home health aide from a clinical standpoint. Home health aid is not medically necessary.