

Case Number:	CM14-0177772		
Date Assigned:	10/31/2014	Date of Injury:	11/01/2000
Decision Date:	12/08/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/28/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine 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 patient with a date of injury of 11/1/00. A utilization review determination dated 10/9/14 recommends non-certification of PRP injection. 9/30/14 medical report identifies elbow pain. Had >50% improved pain/function with PRP in the past. On exam, there are tender medial and lateral epicondyles. Repeat PRP was recommended to bilateral elbows.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bilateral elbow platelet rich plasma injection: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Elbow Chapter, Platelet-rich plasma (PRP)

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for bilateral elbow platelet rich plasma injection, California MTUS does not address the issue. ODG recommends a single injection as a second-line therapy for chronic lateral epicondylitis after first-line physical therapy such as eccentric loading, stretching and strengthening exercises. Within the documentation available for review, the request is noted to be for a repeat injection (which is not supported by guidelines) and there is

no clear evidence of failure of first-line treatment as outlined above. In light of the above issues, the currently requested bilateral elbow platelet rich plasma injection is not medically necessary.