

Case Number:	CM14-0214620		
Date Assigned:	01/07/2015	Date of Injury:	06/08/2014
Decision Date:	02/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/22/2014

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:
 State(s) of Licensure: Arizona, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

Female claimant sustained a work injury on 6/8/14 involving the right foot, ankle and elbow. An MRI of the ankle on July, 16, 2014 indicated the claimant had subluxing , frayed peroneal tendons and superior peroneal retinaculum insufficiency. She was diagnosed with 1-2 anterior instability and post-traumatic arthrofibrosis. a progress note on 11/18/14 indicated the claimant had 3/10 pain and 6/10 with activities. E am findings were notable for extreme dorsiflexion causing subluxation of the peroneal tendons over the fibula involving the right lower extremity. The treating physician ordered a right ankle AFO hinge brace.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One hinge AFO for the right ankle: Overturned

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 376.

Decision rationale: According to the MTUS ACOEM Practice Guidelines, prolonged brace or supports are not recommended due to risk of debilitation. They are recommended for acute injuries. However, orthotics can be used for appropriate diagnoses or to prevent exacerbation later. Based on the persistent instability and chronic symptoms, an ankle/foot orthosis is appropriate and medically necessary.