

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0218551		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/08/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/13/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/13/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/17/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/30/2014

### 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: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

### 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 injured worker is a 57 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on May 13, 2013. She has reported pain to bilateral hands and finger. More specifically to the right hand and fingers and has been diagnosed with status post right trigger thumb release, right trigger thumb, triggering right long finger, and questionable complex regional pain syndrome, right hand. Treatment to date has included medical imaging, surgery, injections, and physical therapy. Currently the injured worker was experiencing pain with extension of the right elbow and pain with extension of the right wrist. The treatment plan included a bone scan. On December 17, 2014 Utilization Review non certified bone scan right hand citing MTUS, ACEOM, and Official Disability Guidelines.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Bone scan of the right hand:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 11 Forearm, Wrist, and Hand Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Pain chapter, bone scan for Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003833.htm>

**Decision rationale:** The patient presents with pain in her right hand/fingers and left wrist/thumb/3rd finger. The request is for a BONE SCAN OF THE RIGHT HAND. There is no RFA provided. The patient is not currently working. The utilization review denial rationale is that the value of a 3-phase bone scan and a diagnosis of CRPS is very limited. A 3-phase bone scan neither makes nor excludes the diagnosis of CRPS by itself. There is significant evidence of CRPS to recommend the study particularly with the presence of normal plain radiographs. ODG guidelines have the following regarding bone scan for Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome: The sensitivity of the test is less than its specificity and the former declines with increasing duration of CRPS. Suggestion has been made that TPBS it is most useful in the early duration after diagnosis (4-6 months). Bonescan for fractures: US national library of medicine NIH (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003833.htm>) states a bone scan can be used to "Evaluate metabolic disorders, such as osteomalacia, renal osteodystrophy, primary hyperparathyroidism, osteoporosis, complex regional pain syndrome, and Paget's disease." The 12/08/2014 report states that the treater is requesting authorization for a bone scan directed to the right hand, to help discern the presence of a complex regional pain syndrome. The patient is diagnosed with a status post right trigger thumb release, right trigger thumb, triggering right long finger, and questionable complex regional pain syndrome of the right hand. In this case, the US National Library of Medicine NIH indicates that a bone scan can be used to evaluate complex regional pain syndrome, which this patient may have. Therefore, the requested bone scan of the right hand IS medically necessary.