MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM15-0013216		
Date Assigned:	01/30/2015	Date of Injury:	09/13/2012
Decision Date:	03/18/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/05/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/22/2015

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: New York
Certification(s)/Specialty: Podiatrist

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 66 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on September 13, 2012. She has reported pain of the right foot. The diagnoses have included crush injury of the ankle/foot, contusion of the ankle/foot, capsulitis, and keratoderma. Treatment to date has included bracing, orthopedic footwear, medications, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation unit, and imaging studies. A progress note dated December 12, 2014 indicates a chief complaint of continued right foot pain despite treatment. Physical examination showed keratotic lesions along a scar from a surgery that took place prior to the injury. The treating physician is requesting silicone augmentation of the right foot. On January 5, 2015 Utilization Review denied the request for the silicone augmentation of the right foot citing non-MTUS, ACOEM Guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Silicone Augmentation for the right foot, quantity: 4: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation http://www.ncbi.nim.nih.gov/pubmed/6242141; Clinical Podiatry. 1984 April 1(1): 145-64, The Fluid Silicone Prosthesis

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation 1. The effect of silicone injections in the diabetic foot on peak plantar pressure and plantar tissue thickness: A 2-year follow-up Cited in Scopus: 24, Carine H. van Schie, Alexandra Whalley, David G. Armstrong, Loretta Vileikyte, Andrew J. Boulton. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Vol. 83, Issue 7, p919-923 Published in issue: July, 2002. 2. Pressure and the diabetic foot: clinical science and offloading techniques Cited in Scopus: 52, Andrew J.M Boulton, The American Journal of Surgery, Vol. 187, Issue 5, S17-S24 Published in issue: May, 2004.

Decision rationale: After careful review of the enclosed information and the pertinent guidelines and research literature for this case, it is my opinion that silicone augmentation to the right foot for this patient is medically reasonable and necessary to alleviate the pressure surrounding her painful area right foot. It is well documented that this patient has undergone a procedure to her right foot which has led to a very painful scar and concomitant deep painful keratoma to the plantar lateral aspect of her right 5th metatarsal phalangeal joint. ACOEM and ODG guidelines are quiet on the use of silicone augmentation for pressure disbursement. Other peer-reviewed literature enclosed in this case advises that liquid silicone injections to painful highly pressurized areas may alleviate some pressure allowing for pain relief and reduction in ulceration formation. Also documented in the progress notes is the fact that patient has failed numerous conservative treatments for her right foot pain. For this reason I feel that 3 to 4 injections of liquid silicone to the highly pressurized area right foot is medically reasonable and necessary.