

Case Number:	CM15-0013797		
Date Assigned:	02/02/2015	Date of Injury:	09/12/2012
Decision Date:	03/27/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/09/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/23/2015

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: California, Arizona

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 29-year-old male who reported an injury on 09/12/2012. The mechanism of injury was a fall. Diagnoses included right shoulder impingement and status post open reduction internal fixation of the fifth metatarsal joint fracture. Medications were not provided within the documentation. Surgeries included open reduction internal fixation of the fifth metatarsal on 12/23/2012. Diagnostic studies included an EMG/NCV on 03/22/2013 of the upper extremities, an EMG/NCV of the lower extremities on 03/28/2013, an x-ray of the left foot on 10/08/2014, an x-ray of the right shoulder on 10/08/2014, and an MRI of the right shoulder on 12/08/2014. Her other therapies were noted to include chiropractic care, acupuncture care, exercise, home stimulator, stationary boot, crutches, medication, electrical stimulation, ice, ACE wrap, cortisone injections to the right shoulder, and analgesic balm. The progress note dated 11/17/2014 noted the injured worker complained of left foot pain. He was pending surgery for hardware removal. He was having pain with prolonged standing. He was currently working. The injured worker had injection for the right shoulder which helped, and was still having trouble sleeping due to right shoulder. On examination of the right shoulder, there was positive impingement test. There was tenderness over the AC joint, coracoid process, bicipital groove, deltoid bursa, and GH joint on the right. Internal rotation was 45 degrees with pain. Exam of the foot and ankle had tenderness of the fifth metatarsal and over the surgical scar. The injured worker was not using bracing or assistive devices. There was pain with standing and on toe raise and heel raise. The treatment plan included updated MRI for the right shoulder and pending surgery for the right foot.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Custom orthotics: Upheld

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): 369-371.

Decision rationale: The request for custom orthotics is not supported. The injured worker has a history of left shoulder and bilateral ankle pain. The California MTUS/ACOEM Guidelines state that rigid orthotics may reduce pain experienced during walking and may reduce more global measurement of pain and disability for patients with plantar fasciitis and metatarsalgia. There is a lack of documentation of the injured worker having plantar fasciitis or metatarsalgia. The provider is requesting surgical removal of hardware. Given the fact that the injured worker is a candidate for surgery, orthotics would not be supported prior to surgery. As such, the request is not medically necessary.