

Case Number:	CM15-0125800		
Date Assigned:	07/10/2015	Date of Injury:	08/05/2013
Decision Date:	08/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/29/2015

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, Indiana, Oregon
Certification(s)/Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

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 47 year old woman sustained an industrial injury on 8/5/2013. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Diagnoses include lateral ligament injury with soft tissue impingement of the right ankle. Treatment has included oral medications. Physician notes dated 5/14/2015 show complaints of right ankle giving way. Recommendations include surgical intervention, post-operative physical therapy, and follow up in three weeks.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right Ankle Arthroscopy with ligament reconstruction surgery: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints Page(s): 374-375.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) ankle.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM guidelines are silent on the issue of lateral ankle ligament reconstruction. According to the ODG, Ankle section, lateral ligament ankle

reconstruction, criteria includes conservative care, subjective findings of ankle instability and objective findings. In addition there must be evidence of positive stress radiographs demonstrating at least 15 degrees of lateral opening at the ankle joint performed by a physician or demonstrable subtalar movement. There must also be minimal arthritic joint changes on radiographs. In this case the exam note from 5/14/15 does not demonstrate evidence of stress radiographs being performed. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.

Post operative physical therapy 12 sessions for right ankle: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) ankle.

Decision rationale: Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.