

Case Number:	CM15-0126381		
Date Assigned:	07/10/2015	Date of Injury:	04/24/2014
Decision Date:	08/06/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/30/2015

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 52 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 4/24/14. He subsequently reported bilateral knee and right shoulder pain. Diagnoses include right shoulder rotator cuff tear. Treatments to date include x-ray and MRI testing, physical therapy and prescription pain medications. The injured worker continues to experience right shoulder pain and weakness. Upon examination, there was right shoulder tenderness and reduced range of motion. Shoulder impingement test was positive. A request for Right Shoulder Arthroscopy RTC Repair was made by the treating physician.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right Shoulder Arthroscopy RTC Repair: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints Page(s): 210-211.

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

Decision rationale: According to the CA MTUS/ACOEM Shoulder Chapter, page 209-210, surgical considerations for the shoulder include failure of four months of activity modification and existence of a surgical lesion. In addition the guidelines recommend surgery consideration for a clear clinical and imaging evidence of a lesion shown to benefit from surgical repair. The ODG Shoulder section, surgery for rotator cuff repair, recommends 3-6 months of conservative care with a painful arc on exam from 90-130 degrees and night pain. There also must be weak or absent abduction with tenderness and impingement signs on exam. Finally there must be evidence of temporary relief from anesthetic pain injection and imaging evidence of deficit in rotator cuff. In this case, there is no MRI evidence of a full thickness rotator cuff tear amenable to repair. Based on this the request is not medically necessary.