

Case Number:	CM15-0127311		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2015	Date of Injury:	04/02/2002
Decision Date:	08/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/11/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/01/2015

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 Jersey, Alabama, California
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine

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 is a 58 year old male with an April 2, 2002 date of injury. A progress note dated May 21, 2015 documents subjective complaints (occasional right shoulder pain with tenderness, weakness, and decreased mobility), objective findings (atrophy of the right shoulder; crepitus of the right shoulder; diffuse tenderness of the right shoulder; decreased range of motion of the right shoulder), and current diagnoses (shoulder degenerative joint disease). Treatments to date have included shoulder injections, right shoulder surgery, medications, and imaging studies. The treating physician requested authorization for a Pressure Pneum appl half leg (right shoulder).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Retrospective Pressure Pneum appl half leg (right shoulder): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), shoulder (acute and chronic).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Compression garments.
<http://www.odg-twc.com/index.html>.

Decision rationale: According to ODG guidelines, Compression garments "Recommended good evidence for the use of compression is available, but little is known about dosimetry in compression, for how long and at what level compression should be applied. Low levels of compression 10-30 mmHg applied by stockings are effective in the management of telangiectases after sclerotherapy, varicose veins in pregnancy, the prevention of edema and deep vein thrombosis (DVT). High levels of compression produced by bandaging and strong compression stockings (30-40 mmHg) are effective at healing leg ulcers and preventing progression of post-thrombotic syndrome as well as in the management of lymphedema. (Parsch, 2008) (Nelson-Cochrane, 2008) See also Lymphedema pumps; Venous thrombosis. Recent research: There is inconsistent evidence for compression stockings to prevent post-thrombotic syndrome (PTS) after first-time proximal deep venous thrombosis (DVT). The findings of this study do not support routine wearing of elastic compression stockings (ECS) after DVT. PTS is a chronic disorder affecting 40%-48% of patients during the first 2 years after acute symptomatic DVT. The American College of Chest Physicians currently recommends wearing compression stockings with 30-40 mm Hg pressure at the ankle for 2 years to reduce the risk of developing PTS, but the data supporting this recommendation are inconsistent, and come from small randomized trials without blinding. This high quality double-blind randomized trial compared compression stockings to sham stockings (without therapeutic compression) in 806 patients with proximal DVT and concluded otherwise. (Kahn, 2014)." There is no documentation that the patient is at increased risk of DVT. The risk of developing DVT with shoulder disorders is very low. ODG guidelines do not support shoulder compression device. Therefore, the request for Retrospective Pressure Pneum appl half leg (right shoulder) is not medically necessary.