

Case Number:	CM15-0033535		
Date Assigned:	02/27/2015	Date of Injury:	06/23/2006
Decision Date:	04/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/10/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/23/2015

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: New Jersey, Michigan, 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 39 year old female sustained an industrial injury on 6/23/06. She subsequently reports ongoing bilateral shoulder pain. The injured worker has undergone multiple right upper extremity surgeries as well as left shoulder surgery. Treatments to date have included work restrictions, injections, acupuncture, physical therapy and prescription pain medications. On 2/10/15, Utilization Review non-certified a request for 1 Abduction Sling and 10 days rental of game ready unit. The Abduction Sling and 10 days rental of game ready unit was denied based on MTUS ACOEM and ODG guidelines.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Abduction Sling: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Online Edition Chapter: Shoulder (Acute & Chronic).

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Postoperative abduction pillow sling.

<https://msf.compiq.net/odg/odgtreatment.com/odgtwc/shoulder.htm#Postoperativeabductionpillowsling>.

Decision rationale: According to ODG guidelines, post op abduction pillow sling is Recommended as an option following open repair of large and massive rotator cuff tears. The sling/abduction pillow keeps the arm in a position that takes tension off the repaired tendon. Abduction pillows for large and massive tears may decrease tendon contact to the prepared sulcus but are not used for arthroscopic repairs. There is no documentation that the patient underwent a large and recent massive rotator cuff repair and the need for the sling is unclear. Therefore, the request for 1 Abduction Sling is not medically necessary.

10 days rental of game ready unit: 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), Online Edition Chapter: Shoulder.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Game Ready[®] ½ accelerated recovery system <http://www.odg-twc.com/index.html>.

Decision rationale: According to ODG guidelines, Game Ready accelerated recovery is recommended in case of knee surgery. Recommended as an option after surgery, but not for nonsurgical treatment. See Continuous-flow cryotherapy. The Game Ready system combines Continuous-flow cryotherapy with the use of vaso-compression. While there are studies on Continuous-flow cryotherapy, there are no published high quality studies on the Game Ready device or any other combined system. However, in a recent yet-to-be-published RCT, patients treated with compressive cryotherapy after ACL reconstruction had better pain relief and less dependence on narcotic use than patients treated with cryotherapy alone. (Waterman, 2011). There are no studies or any literature supporting the use of Game ready accelerated recovery system after shoulder surgery. The patient underwent multiple shoulder and upper extremities surgeries and there is no documentation of knee surgery. Therefore, the request for 10 days rental of game ready unit is not medically necessary.