

Case Number:	CM15-0045627		
Date Assigned:	03/18/2015	Date of Injury:	07/29/2009
Decision Date:	05/21/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/27/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/10/2015

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:

The injured worker is a 46-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 7/29/2009. Diagnoses include ankle instability and ankle pain. Treatment to date has included diagnostics including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), medications and work modification. Per the Primary Treating Physician's Progress Report dated 2/04/2015, the injured worker reported right ankle injury. Physical examination revealed no signs of infection and pain laterally. The plan of care included surgical intervention and authorization was requested for post-op crutches for the right ankle.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Post-op crutches for the right ankle: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines.

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: This review presumes that a surgery is planned and will proceed. There is no medical necessity for this request if the surgery does not occur. The CA MTUS/ACOEM guidelines are silent regarding crutches. According to ODG Ankle section, crutches are recommended for patients with conditions causing impaired ambulation, when there is a potential for ambulation with these devices. In this case, the use of crutches post-operatively is reasonable and medically necessary.