

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0076307		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/28/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/29/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/29/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/27/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/21/2015

### 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: Pennsylvania, Ohio, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

### 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 41-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on January 29, 2014. The injured worker was diagnosed as having an open fracture of an unspecified part of the humerus. Treatment to date has included physical therapy, x-ray, bracing, home bone stimulator, elbow open reduction internal fixation and revision, and medication. Currently, the injured worker complains of right elbow pain. The Treating Physician's report dated March 12, 2015, noted the injured worker reported slowly improving his range of motion (ROM) and strength, continuing to be in a lot of pain following his physical therapy or home physical therapy exercises. Examination of the right elbow was noted to show swelling, crepitus with range of motion (ROM), and strength limited due to pain. The treatment plan was noted to include a request for authorization for physical therapy for the right elbow.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Physical therapy 2 times a week for 6 weeks, right elbow:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS encourages physical therapy with an emphasis on active forms of treatment and patient education. This guideline recommends transition from supervised therapy to active independent home rehabilitation. Given the timeline of this injury and past treatment, the patient would be anticipated to have previously transitioned to such an independent home rehabilitation program. The records do not provide a rationale at this time for additional supervised rather than independent rehabilitation. This request is not medically necessary.