

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0079876		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/30/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/28/1985
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/01/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/08/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/27/2015

### 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 51-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 2/28/1985. He reported a crush injury when a forklift ran over his foot. The injured worker was diagnosed as having leg length discrepancy and mal-united ankle fusion with multiple ankle surgeries. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included surgery, custom shoes and medication management. In a progress note dated 3/19/2015, the injured worker complains of right foot pain and difficulty walking. The treating physician is requesting surgical osteoplasty for the right ankle, to realign previous ankle fusion, with gradual osteosynthesis of the tibia and skin graft revision for the right plantar heel.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Osteoplasty for the Right Ankle, to Realign Previous Ankle Fusion, with Gradual Osteosynthesis of the Tibia and Skin Graft Revision for the Right Plantar Heel:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2004 Nov;86-A (11);2406-11.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Gross RH "Limb length discrepancy; How much is too much" Orthopaedics 1978 1(4) 307-310.

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS/ACOEM and ODG are silent on the issue of limb lengthening. Classic teaching stemming from the cited article instruct that limb length discrepancies less than 2.5 centimeters are typically unnoticed and that often discrepancies greater than that are not functionally significant. In this case, the chart note from 3/19/15 does not clearly delineate what the objective limb length discrepancy is, nor is there documentation of a trial of the planned surgical lengthening as a shoe lift improving functional outcome. Nor scanogram evidence of a true leg length discrepancy is provided. Based on the above, the requested procedure is not medically necessary.