

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0099065		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/01/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	05/17/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/20/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/28/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/22/2015

### 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: Texas, California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

### 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 female with an industrial injury dated 05/17/2013. The injured worker's diagnoses include displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc and sciatica. Treatment consisted of diagnostic studies, prescribed medications, and periodic follow up visits. In a progress note dated 04/07/2015, the injured worker reported pain in her right foot. The injured worker reported pain with weight bearing on the foot and presented to office with a cane. Objective findings revealed diffuse tenderness through the mid tarsal area, right antalgic gait and positive straight leg raises. The treating physician prescribed services for consultation with orthopedic foot and ankle specialist now under review. Per note dated 5/19/15 patient had complaints of numbness and tingling in right buttock and right leg. Physical examination of the low back and LE revealed tenderness on palpation, limited range of motion and muscle weakness positive SLR on right side and unable to perform heel toe walk. The medication list includes Diclofen. Patient sustained the injury when boxes fell on her right foot.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Consultation with orthopedic foot and ankle specialist:** Overturned

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) Chapter 7, IME and consultations, page 127.

**Decision rationale:** Request: Consultation with orthopedic foot and ankle specialist MTUS Guidelines. Per the cited guidelines, "The occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise." The injured worker's diagnoses include displacement of lumbar intervertebral disc and sciatica. In a progress note dated 04/07/2015, the injured worker reported pain in her right foot. The injured worker reported pain with weight bearing on the foot and presented to office with a cane. Objective findings revealed diffuse tenderness through the mid tarsal area, right antalgic gait and positive straight leg raises. Per note dated 5/19/15 patient had complaints of numbness and tingling in right buttock and right leg. Physical examination of the low back and LE revealed tenderness on palpation, limited range of motion and muscle weakness positive SLR on right side and unable to perform heel-toe walk. Patient has had conservative treatment with oral medication and still has significant objective findings. Therefore this a complex case and the management of this case would be benefited by a Consultation with orthopedic foot and ankle specialist. The request for Consultation with orthopedic foot and ankle specialist is medically necessary and appropriate for this patient.