

Case Number:	CM14-0149537		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	03/01/2001
Decision Date:	10/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/11/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/15/2014

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in California. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 43-year-old male with a 3/1/01 date of injury. At the time (8/6/14) of the request for authorization for platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection-right elbow, there is documentation of subjective (right elbow pain) and objective (deferred) findings, current diagnoses (chronic lateral epicondylitis), and treatment to date (medication and therapy).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection-right elbow: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Elbow, Platelet-rich plasma (PRP)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Elbow, Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP)

Decision rationale: MTUS does not address this issue. ODG identifies documentation of chronic lateral epicondylitis and failure of first-line physical therapy such as eccentric loading, stretching and strengthening exercises, as criteria necessary to support a single injection of

platelet-rich plasma. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of chronic lateral epicondylitis. In addition, there is documentation of failure of first-line physical therapy such as eccentric loading, stretching and strengthening exercises. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for platelet-rich plasma (PRP) injection-right elbow is medically necessary.