

Case Number:	CM14-0173444		
Date Assigned:	10/24/2014	Date of Injury:	05/05/2009
Decision Date:	11/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/21/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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:

The patient is a 59-year-old male with an injury date of 05/05/09. Based on the 09/25/14 progress report, the patient complains of left ankle pain. Physical examination to the left ankle revealed swelling and a long incision scar over the left lateral ankle and the smaller incisional scar over the left medial ankle. Range of motion was limited, especially with eversion and inversion. Anterior drawer test negative. The patient underwent left ankle surgery, which did not help. He utilized a brace, had medication management, and physical therapy, as well as chiropractic care for his left ankle. The patient did not have postoperative MRI of the left ankle in review of medical records. His last MRI of the left ankle was done on 12/07/09 per QME report dated 11/12/12. Diagnosis as of 10/09/14 included status post left ankle surgery. The treating physician is requesting MRI of the left ankle. The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 10/09/14. The rationale is "history and documentation not objectively support the request for an MRI of the left ankle (postoperative) at this time. No evidence of trial of recent conservative care..." The treating physician's reports provided are from 11/12/12 - 09/25/14. Diagnosis 10/09/14- status post left ankle surgery, May 2012 per QME report dated 05/12/14. Dr. [REDACTED] is requesting MRI of the left ankle. The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 10/09/14. The rationale is "history and documentation not objectively support the request for an MRI of the left ankle (postoperative) at this time. no evidence of trial of recent conservative care..." [REDACTED] is the requesting provider and he provided treatment reports from 11/12/12 - 09/25/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI of the left ankle.: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 14 Ankle and Foot Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Ankle and Foot Chapter, MRI

Decision rationale: The patient presents with ankle pain and the request is for MRI of the left ankle. He is status post left ankle surgery 05/12/14 which did not help. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Ankle and Foot Chapter MRI Topic, states that imaging is indicated due to chronic ankle pain if plain films are normal and there is suspected osteochondral injury, suspected tendinopathy or pain of uncertain etiology. The treating physician does not discuss this request in the reports provided. MRI of the left ankle was done on 12/07/09 per QME report dated 11/12/12. In this case, given the patient's persistent ankle pain and the treating physician's concern for ligament injury, an MRI appears appropriate. In addition, the patient did not have postoperative MRI of the left ankle. Therefore, this request is medically necessary.