

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review
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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the requested magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the left knee with intra articular contrast (arthrogram) **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 4/29/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 3/1/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 6/10/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the requested magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the left knee with intra articular contrast (arthrogram) **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Case Summary:

Disclaimer: The following case summary was taken directly from the utilization review denial/modification dated April 10, 2013.

“Clinical summary: DOI: 3/1/13, c/o pain to left knee that would not go away, states he had left knee pain in the past and is s/p left knee surgery in 2005, states there feels like a fullness in the back of his left knee, exam reveals left knee chondromalacia patella going through ROM, chandler, equivocal Apley’s Compression, McMurray’s and Bounce Home test all negative, one merchant view obtained on day of exam reveals slight lateral patellar narrowing with a small osteophyte on the patellar over the lateral facet.”

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application for Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination by [REDACTED] (dated 4/10/13)
- Primary Treating Physician Progress Report – Orthopedic Consult (dated 3/27/13)
- American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Guidelines, 2nd Edition, (2004) – Chapter 13: Knee Complaints (pages 329-330, 334)

1) Regarding the request for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the left knee with intra articular contrast (arthrogram):

Medical Treatment Guideline(s) Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision:

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) Guidelines, 2nd Edition, (2004) – Chapter 13: Knee Complaints (pages 329-330, 334), which are part of the California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS). The provider did not dispute the guidelines used by the Claims Administrator. The Expert Reviewer found the guidelines used by the Claims Administrator relevant and appropriate for the employee's clinical circumstance.

Rationale for the Decision:

The employee was injured on 3/1/2013 and experienced left knee pain. In the case of this employee, the ACOEM guideline criteria for MRI are not met. The employee does not have demonstrated red flag signs or instability on examination. The date of injury indicates this injury is still in the acute phase, and conservative treatment has only begun as of the most recent available documentation dated 3/27/2013. The examination on this date indicates negative valgus or varus laxity and the cruciate ligaments are felt to be intact. The patient has equivocal Apley's Compression, McMurray's, and bounce home test. The requested MRI of the left knee with intra articular contrast (arthrogram) is not medically necessary and appropriate.

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely;

Richard C. Weiss, MD, MPH, MMM, PMP
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

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Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.