

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 12/16/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	8/9/2013
Date of Injury:	6/17/2011
IMR Application Received:	8/30/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-18731

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **game ready cold therapy unit two week rental is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/30/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/9/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 10/11/2013. 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 request for **game ready cold therapy unit two week rental 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 Orthopedic Surgeon, has a subspecialty in Sports Medicine 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.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The patient is a 35 year old male who reported an injury on 06/17/2011. He had an operation on 08/29/2013 to repair a medial meniscus tear and an anterior cruciate ligament tear. Prior to this surgery, the patient was having symptoms of right knee pain. He had been treated with anti-inflammatory medications, icing, physical therapy, home exercise, medications, and multiple injections. An MRI from 12/09/2011 showed a medial meniscus tear, an anterior cruciate ligament tear, and anterior cruciate ligament insufficiency.

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 of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)
- Medical Records from the Claims Administrator and the Employee/Employee Representative

1) Regarding the request for game ready cold therapy unit two week rental:

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the ACOEM Guidelines, 2nd edition, 2008, pages 1015 – 1017 and the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Sections - Knee and Leg, Game Ready accelerated recovery system and continuous-flow cryotherapy, which are not a part of MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Sections - Knee and Leg, continuous-flow cryotherapy, which is not a part of MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

The Official Disability Guidelines recommend continuous-flow cryotherapy, up to 7 days, as an option after surgery. The medical records provided for review indicate the employee did have surgery on 08/29/13, so continuous-flow cryotherapy would be indicated; however, the guidelines limit the duration of treatment to 7 days. The request is for continuous-flow cryotherapy for two weeks, and this exceeds the guidelines limit of 7 days. **The request for Game Ready cold therapy unit two week rental 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,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

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

/hs

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.