

Case Number:	CM13-0016040		
Date Assigned:	10/11/2013	Date of Injury:	01/17/2012
Decision Date:	01/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/24/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/23/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery 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 physician 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 53-year-old female who was injured in a work related accident on January 17, 2012. There was an operative report of September 11, 2013 indicating the claimant underwent a left knee arthroscopy, loose body removal, partial medial and lateral meniscectomy, and debridement under general anesthesia. There was also a preoperative assessment dated September 04, 2013 which documented chief complaints of pain about the left knee with objective findings showing tenderness to palpation about the medial and lateral joint line. Authorization for surgery and a preoperative evaluation was requested at that time.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre Operative Medical Clearance History and Physical (H&P): Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 343-344.

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 Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127

Decision rationale: The ACOEM states "A referral may be for consultation to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, therapeutic management, determination of medical stability, and permanent residual loss and/or the examinee's fitness for return to work". Based on the ACOEM Guidelines, consultation for preoperative medical clearance history and physical examination would be considered as medically necessary for the purpose of identifying any risk factors that could have an untoward effect on the surgical outcome. Accordingly on the basis of the clinician's examination and history, decisions for medical management in the perioperative period could be accomplished. Therefore the request for a Pre-Operative Medical Clearance History and Physical is medically necessary and appropriate.