

Case Number:	CM13-0033495		
Date Assigned:	12/06/2013	Date of Injury:	02/07/2011
Decision Date:	02/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/26/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/09/2013

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 claimant is a 71-year-old female who was injured in work related accident 02/07/11 sustaining injury to the knee while falling. The clinical records for review indicate that the claimant is with a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) report showing advanced tricompartmental degenerative arthrosis. A recent clinical assessment indicates that the claimant has now failed conservative care in regards to the right knee with a 09/05/13 assessment indicating limited range of motion, tenderness to palpation, and subjective complaints of "clicking." The clinical notes indicated the need for a right knee steroid injection at that time. There is also a current request for a surgical arthroscopy to be performed to the knee. The claimant last assessment was noted to be with a diagnosis of "osteoarthritis to the right knee". The clinical records indicate that the surgical process has not been supported by carrier. At present, there is a request for preoperative medical clearance for the claimant for her right knee procedure.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Consultation Preop medical clearance Knee-right: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) 2007 guidelines, retrieved from <http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/116/17/e418>

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations (ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition (2004), Chapter 7), pg. 127.

Decision rationale: Based on the California ACOEM Guidelines, preoperative medical clearance in a 71-year-old individual would not be indicated. Only 71-year-old individuals should obtain preoperative medical assessment prior to an anesthetic procedure. The need for surgical intervention in regards to a right knee has not yet been established. This would negate the need for any degree perioperative treatment. Specific request would not be indicated.