

Case Number:	CM13-0035785		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	12/27/2012
Decision Date:	04/30/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/12/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/17/2013

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 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 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:

This 58-year-old claimant sustained a left knee injury and was treated conservatively. Mechanical symptoms of pain persisted. Examination was concerning for a meniscal tear. A knee MRI was obtained which was suspicious for osteochondral lesions in the setting of arthritis. Surgery in the form of arthroscopy, debridement, possible meniscectomy versus repair, and possible chondroplasty was certified. Along with this request was a request for deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis and ten days of perioperative antibiotics.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ANTIBIOTICS-LEVAQUIN 750MG X 10 DAYS #20 (PERI-OPERATIVE): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Mosby's Drug Consult.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Journal of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery. 2008 May; 16(5):283-293, "Prophylactic antibiotics in orthopedic surgery".

Decision rationale: A ten day course of antibiotics following elective knee arthroscopy surgery is not within the standard of care. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons recommends only 24 hours of antibiotic administration at a maximum following elective surgery. Typically

for elective outpatient arthroscopy surgery, only a preoperative dose of antibiotics is administered. Therefore, Levaquin for ten days preoperatively would not be considered medically necessary and appropriate in this case. The decision for Levaquin times ten days remains non-certified.