

Case Number:	CM13-0036602		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	11/09/2011
Decision Date:	02/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/19/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/21/2013

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 Pediatrics and is licensed to practice in Maine and New York. 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 49 year old who sustained injury on Nov 9, 2011. The patient developed right knee pain and has had multiple modes of pharmacological and conservative therapy. From the documents submitted, the patient may have right knee meniscal issues and has undergone right knee arthroscopy. The medical equipment in question is a Knee brace.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Knee Immobilizer for Right Knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG);

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Beynon BD, Pope MH, Wertheimer CM, Johnson RJ, Fleming BC, Nichols CE, Howe JG. The effect of functional knee-braces on strain on the anterior cruciate ligament in vivo. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1992 Oct;74(9):1298-312.

Decision rationale: There is little evidence based study that looks into the outcomes after using knee immobilizer. There are no data that show positive outcome after custom based functional knee braces over prefabricated off the shelf braces. Beynon BD in their 1992 article has shown

that there were no apparent advantages of the more expensive custom-made braces compared with the off-the-shelf designs.