

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0047379		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/27/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/07/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/21/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/28/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/01/2013

### 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 Pennsylvania. 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:

The claimant was injured on January 7, 2003. Records indicate an injury to the right knee which has failed previous operative arthroscopy with chondroplasty and synovectomy on February 15, 2013. Partial medial and lateral meniscectomies were also performed. In the postoperative setting, the claimant received a Synvisc one injection in the right knee on May 7, 2013. Follow-up orthopedic report dated November 4, 2013 indicated ongoing complaints of pain and states relief with Synvisc I injection. It stated a repeat injection was given on September 23, 2013. At present, the claimant's current diagnoses was that of degenerative change status post right knee arthroscopy with response to previous injection of Synvisc, thus a Synvisc injection was recommended for the left knee as well as recommendation for continuation of Synvisc supplementation to the right knee on a six month basis.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **THE REQUEST FOR 1 OUTPATIENT SYNVISC INJECTION FOR THE RIGHT KNEE ON A SIX MONTH BASIS: 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 Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee Procedure

**Decision rationale:** CA MTUS Guidelines are silent. When looking Official Disability Guideline criteria, the claimant has received two Synvisc one injections to the right knee in calendar year 2013, the first of which was in May of 2013 and the second of which was September 2013. It was only four months between injections. There would be no current indication for ongoing treatment of Synvisc injections without documentation of six months of benefit from the procedure. The role of right knee Synvisc injections on a "six month basis" as suggested at time of clinical presentation in November of 2013 is not medically necessary and appropriate.