

Case Number:	CM13-0050230		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	06/10/2013
Decision Date:	05/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/30/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/12/2013

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 Geriatrics and is licensed to practice in 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 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 injured worker is presented with a history of hypertension and high cholesterol with a date of injury of 6/10/13. He has a left knee injury with medial meniscus tear and underwent arthroscopic surgical fixation on 10/25/13 and he was weight bearing as tolerated and discharged home on the same day of surgery. On 10/17/13, there was a request for a DVT max, pneumatic compression wraps and motorized cold unit for purchase that are at issue in this review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PNEUMATIC COMPRESSION WRAPS: 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).

Decision rationale: According to the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolic, Disease in Surgical Patients, state that the risk of venous thromboembolism is uncertain in surgeries such as knee arthroscopy with no good good randomized clinical trials to show efficacy of any form of DVT prophylaxis. The injured worker was to undergo elective knee arthroscopy for a meniscus tear. He does not have any risk factors for DVT such as cancer or immobility. He is a low risk

surgical patient and was weight bearing as tolerated after surgery. The request for pneumatic compression wraps is not medically necessary and appropriate.

MOTORIZED COLD UNIT FOR PURCHASE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 1015-1017.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 329-358.

Decision rationale: The medical records provided for review indicate that the patient was to undergo elective knee arthroscopy for a meniscus tear. According to the MTUS/ACOEM guidelines the application of cold can be effective in knee injuries or post-operatively but there is no justification for a motorized cold unit for purchase versus the application of ice packs. The request for motorized cold unit for purchase is not medically necessary and appropriate.

DVT MAX FOR PURCHASE: 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 PREVENTION OF VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLIC DISEASE IN SURGICAL PATIENTS

Decision rationale: According to guidelines the risk of venous thromboembolism is uncertain in surgeries such as knee arthroscopy with no good good randomized clinical trials to show efficacy of any form of DVT prophylaxis. This injured worker was to undergo elective knee arthroscopy for a meniscus tear. The patient does not have any risk factors for deep venous thrombosis (DVT) such as cancer or immobility. He is a low risk surgical patient and was weight bearing as tolerated after surgery. The request for DVTmax for purchase is not medically necessary and appropriate.