

Case Number:	CM13-0050586		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	10/14/2011
Decision Date:	03/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/24/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/13/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 patient is a 49 year-old injured worker who was injured on 10/14/11. The IMR application shows a dispute with the 10/24/13 UR decision on platelet rich plasma (PRP) injections for the right knee. The 10/24/13 UR letter is from [REDACTED], and recommended non-certification based on the 10/1/13 medical report. According to the 10/1/13 orthopedic report from [REDACTED], the patient presents with right knee pain ambulating with a cane. The patient had prior surgery and has recommendations for right knee TKR. The treating provider discusses possible arthroscopy with injection of stem cells, but does not discuss platelet rich plasma injections, which is the topic of this IMR.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Platelet rich plasma injection to the 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), Pain Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Pain Chapter.

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) states PRP injections are: "Not recommended except in a research setting" It is stated for the knee, they are under study. Based on the medical records provided for review the patient presents with right knee pain ambulating with a cane. The patient had prior surgery and has recommendations for right knee TKR. The request for platelet rich plasma injections are not in accordance with ODG guidelines. The request for platelet rich plasma injection to the right knee is not medically necessary and appropriate.