

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0052815		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/08/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/10/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	10/28/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/16/2013

### 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 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:

This male sustained an injury on 1/8/12 while employed by [REDACTED]. He had left knee injury after tripping over a fire hose. Request under consideration include autologous stem cell harvesting/separation and injections of the separated stem cells into right knee joint. Report of 10/21/13 from [REDACTED] noted the patient had received both cortisone and Hyalgan injections for his knee prior to undergoing the left total knee arthroplasty. The surgery was well-healed. The patient has right knee arthritic complaints, including morning stiffness. Exam showed -15 degrees of flexion and 3 degrees of extension. Diagnosis included tear medial cartilage or meniscus knee current. Treatment plan included request for stem cell injection which was non-certified on 10/28/13 citing guidelines criteria and lack of medical necessity.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Autologous stem cell harvesting/separation and injections of the separated stem cells into the right knee joint:** 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), Stem Cell Transplantation Section, pages 349-350.

**Decision rationale:** This male sustained an injury on 1/8/12 while employed by [REDACTED]. He had left knee injury after tripping over a fire hose. Request under consideration include autologous stem cell harvesting/separation and injections of the separated stem cells into right knee joint. Report of 10/21/13 from noted the patient had received both cortisone and Hyalgan injections for his knee prior to undergoing the left total knee arthroplasty. The surgery was well-healed. The patient has right knee arthritic complaints, including morning stiffness. Exam showed -15 degrees of flexion and 3 degrees of extension. Diagnosis included tear medial cartilage or meniscus knee current. The California ACOEM and MTUS are silent; however, the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) states for stem cell autologous transplantation is considered under study for severe arthritis and this treatment is not FDA approved in the U.S. Submitted reports have not demonstrated medical necessity to support for this treatment under study per guidelines. There is no documented significant limitations in ADLs, acute flare-up or failed treatment trial to consider for stem cell injection. The autologous stem cell harvesting/separation and injections of the separated stem cells into right knee joint is not medically necessary and appropriate.