

Case Number:	CM13-0053541		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	04/03/1983
Decision Date:	03/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/17/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/18/2013

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 Family Practice 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 63 year old male who reported an injury on 04/03/1983. He is diagnosed with knee osteoarthritis. He was seen on 07/31/13 for a bilateral knee injection with hemocyte autograft. The note indicated the patient failed to respond to medications but there was some temporary improvement with the steroid injections. The 09/19/2013 note indicated "physical therapy for the spine would start today and if no better with knees will request second PRP injection in knees".

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

A platelet rich plasma injection for bilateral knees: 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: Official Disability Guidelines states platelet-rich plasma injections can benefit patients with cartilage degeneration and early osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee but is not promising for very severe osteoarthritis. The submitted documentation did not indicate the

severity of the patient's diagnosis. Also, it did not provide a pain scale or longevity of relief to determine the efficacy of the procedure. As such, the request is non-certified.