

Case Number:	CM13-0055640		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	12/30/2012
Decision Date:	05/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/13/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/21/2013

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 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 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 is a 26-year-old gentleman who injured his right knee in a work related accident on December 30, 2012. The clinical records provided for review included a report of a three view radiographs from 08/22/13 that showed prior femoral and tibial intramedullary rods with satisfactory position, soft tissue calcification and removal of prior transverse bone screws from the lateral plateau region. The records indicated that the claimant's initial injuries included a pelvic fracture, right tibial shaft fracture and right femur fracture. A 09/12/13 office visit documented the diagnosis of multiple trauma status post MVA with no objective findings on examination noted. There is an operative report dated 11/25/13 noting a preoperative diagnosis of "right knee loose body" and that the claimant underwent a right knee chondroplasty of the medial femoral condyle with removal of a 1 x 2 centimeter loose body. The report of a preoperative MRI scan of the knee dated 09/03/13 identified the presence of the loose body that was ultimately removed.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

RIGHT KNEE ARTHROSCOPY WITH REMOVAL OF LOOSE BODY: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation (ODG) Official Disability Guidelines, Knee & Leg.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Treatment in Worker's Comp, 18th Edition, 2013 Updates: knee procedure - Diagnostic arthroscopy.

Decision rationale: The CA ACOEM Guidelines recommend surgical intervention when there has been activity modification for at least one month and failure of exercise programs to increase range of motion and strength of the musculature around the knee. The Official Disability Guidelines address diagnostic arthroscopy when pain and limitations in function continue after a trial of conservative treatment. It should be noted that there is no specific criteria per MTUS ACOEM Guidelines or Official Disability criteria for the sole purpose of loose body removal. When looking at the ACOEM Guidelines and Official Disability Guidelines the surgery for right knee arthroscopy and removal of loose body would be recommended as medically necessary. This individual sustained polytrauma and had evidence of a 1 x 2 centimeter loose body in his knee causing symptoms on preoperative assessment. Surgical removal given the claimant's young age and continued painful complaints would have been warranted. If surgery to remove the loose body were not offered, the physician would have had very limited treatment options to offer this young claimant in terms of conservative measures based on the size of the loose body that was ultimately removed in this individual.