

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0057180		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/14/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/06/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/07/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	11/24/2013

### 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 patient is a 48 year old male with industrial injury October 14, 2011. He is status post right knee diagnostic arthroscopy on January 11, 2012. An exam note from May 15, 2012 indicates that the patient has compliant of ongoing knee pain and low back pain. An exam demonstrates antalgic gait with ambulation with a cane. An MRI of the right knee on April 19, 2012 shows Grade II/III posterior horn of the medial meniscus with probable partial tear with mild effusion of the patellofemoral and suprapatellar bursae. The patient's BMI is 37.1. Radiographs of the knee from December 4, 2012 demonstrate mild osteoarthritis changes of knee joints with small suprapatellar joint effusion. A request was made on October 1, 2013 for a right knee arthroscopy with stem cells and total knee arthroplasty.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**RIGHT KNEE ARTHROSCOPY WITH STEM CELLS INJECTION AS AN OUTPATIENT VERSES A RIGHT KNEE TOTAL KNEE ARTHROPLASTY (TKA) AS AN INPATIENT:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Page(s): 116; 344.  
Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG PRP Knee

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee Arthroplasty, Platelet-Rich Plasma

**Decision rationale:** The patient is 48 years old with obesity and a documented BMI of 37. There is minimal osteoarthritis in the knees on the radiographs documented above. There is no evidence of significant meniscus tear noted on the MRI from April 19, 2012. The patient has had a prior diagnostic arthroscopy without benefit on January 11, 2012. The patient does not meet the ODG criteria for either the platelet-rich plasma (PRP) or the total knee arthroplasty. According to the ODG, PRP is under study and results are inconsistent. With regards to total knee replacement the claimant is under 50 years of age and has a BMI of 37. In addition there is no evidence of significant loss of chondral clear space in at least one compartment of the knee. Therefore neither the arthroscopy with PRP or the total knee replacement is indicated and therefore is non-certified.