

Case Number:	CM13-0069728		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	04/13/2010
Decision Date:	06/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/23/2013

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 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 58-year-old male with a 4/13/10 date of injury and left knee partial medial meniscectomy and debridement 5/13/11. At the time (11/11/13) of request for authorization for Left Total Knee Replacement, there is documentation of subjective (constant bilateral knee pain with reduced range of motion) and objective (279lbs, tenderness to palpation over the medial and lateral joint line in the left knee, and crepitus) findings, current diagnosis (left knee partial medial meniscectomy and debridement), and treatment to date (viscosupplementation, bracing, medications, and physical therapy). There is no documentation of at least 2 of the 3 compartments affected, additional objective findings (Body Mass Index of less than 35), and imaging findings (osteoarthritis on standing x-ray or arthroscopy report).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LEFT KNEE TOTAL REPLACEMENT: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Treatment In Worker 'S Comp, 18th Edition, 2013 Updates: Knee Procedure.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (Odg) Knee, Knee Joint Replacement.

Decision rationale: MTUS does not address the issue. ODG necessitate documentation of at least 2 of the 3 compartments affected, subjective findings (limited range of motion and nighttime joint pain), objective findings (over 50 years of age and Body Mass Index of less than 35), imaging findings (osteoarthritis on standing x-ray or arthroscopy report), and conservative treatment (physical modality, medications, and either Viscosupplementation injections or steroid injection), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of total knee arthroplasty. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of a diagnosis of left knee partial medial meniscectomy and debridement. In addition, there is documentation of subjective findings (limited range of motion and nighttime joint pain), objective findings (over 50 years of age) and conservative treatment (physical modality, medications, and Viscosupplementation injections). However, there is no documentation of at least 2 of the 3 compartments affected. In addition, despite documentation that the patient weighs 279lbs, there is no documentation of additional objective findings (Body Mass Index of less than 35). Furthermore, there is no documentation of imaging findings (osteoarthritis on standing x-ray or arthroscopy report). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for Left Total Knee Replacement is not medically necessary.