

Case Number:	CM14-0003131		
Date Assigned:	01/31/2014	Date of Injury:	09/18/2012
Decision Date:	06/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/08/2014

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 Occupational Medicine 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 has submitted a claim for sprains and strains of unspecified site of knee and leg associated with an industrial injury date of September 18, 2012. The treatment to date has included oral analgesics, right knee arthroscopy, cortisone injection, Supartz injections and physical therapy. The medical records from 2013 were reviewed and showed swelling and right knee pain graded 8/10. A progress report dated December 10, 2013 documented a failure of conservative treatment after the knee arthroscopy, including cortisone injection, Supartz injections, physical therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications. The physical examination of the right knee showed medial and lateral joint line tenderness with effusion, but without gross ligamentous instability, while the left knee examination revealed diffuse tenderness, full range of motion, and a negative Lachman maneuver. The assessment was chondromalacia of the right knee with synovitis. Right total knee arthroplasty with [REDACTED] system is contemplated therefore a CT scan of the right knee was requested for the construction of the component.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

CT SCAN OF THE RIGHT KNEE WITHOUT CONTRAST: 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), Knee Chapter.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee & Leg Chapter, Three-Dimensional CT (3D).

Decision rationale: The California MTUS Guidelines do not address this topic. The Strength of Evidence hierarchy established by the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee & Leg Chapter was used instead. ODG does not recommend routine pre-surgical planning prior to the total knee arthroplasty (TKA). The current trend in implant design addresses individual variation with 3D modeling computed tomography scans. While these innovations may turn out to be worthwhile, their use is currently limited by their expense and debatable clinical significance. Studies do not support the superiority of 3D preoperative templating over 2D conventional evaluation in predicting implant size and 3D templating may not be necessary for preoperatively predicting implant size in TKA. In this case, the right total knee arthroplasty with [REDACTED] system is contemplated which would require 3D CT. The guideline does not support this as studies do not show superiority of 3D templating as compared to 2D conventional evaluation in predicting implant size. Therefore, the request for CT scan of the right knee without contrast is not medically necessary.