

Case Number:	CM14-0003379		
Date Assigned:	01/31/2014	Date of Injury:	08/10/2002
Decision Date:	05/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/31/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/09/2014

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 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 45-year-old who was injured in a work related accident on August 10, 2002 sustaining injury to the left knee. Clinical records for review indicate the claimant was injured while working at a daycare sustaining a fall. Since time of injury, the claimant has undergone two left knee arthroscopies, the second of which was in September of 2012 demonstrating grade III changes to the medial femoral condyle, grade IV degenerative change to the medial tibial plateau and patellofemoral grade II/III arthrosis. Recent clinical progress report of December 17, 2013 indicates persistent complaints of knee pain stating recent injections had helped with examination findings showing 0 to 95 degrees to the left knee with a small effusion, medial joint line tenderness and painful McMurray's testing. It states the claimant has failed considerable conservative care. Recommendations were for surgical arthroplasty for further definitive measures.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

LEFT KNEE TOTAL ARTHROPLASTY: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES CRITERIA FOR KNEE JOINT REPLACEMENT.

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

Decision rationale: Based on Official Disability Guideline criteria as California MTUS Guidelines are silent, total joint arthroplasty in this individual would not be indicated. The claimant is a 45-year-old female who does not meet criteria age of 50-year-old for implementation of joint replacement. Guidelines indicate that age greater than 50 and a body mass index less than 35 are guideline objective criteria to proceeding with arthroplasty in individuals who have failed conservative measures. Given the above information, the specific request for joint arthroplasty in this 45-year-old individual would not be medically necessary or appropriate

2-DAY HOSPITAL STAY: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

Decision rationale: Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.

ASSISTANT SURGEON: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

Decision rationale: Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.