

Case Number:	CM14-0008948		
Date Assigned:	02/14/2014	Date of Injury:	12/01/2001
Decision Date:	06/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/23/2014

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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

This is a female patient with the date of injury of December 1, 2001. A utilization review determination dated January 9, 2014 recommends non-certification of gym membership x 12 months with access to aqua therapy. The previous reviewing physician recommended non-certification of gym membership x 12 months with access to aqua therapy due to lack of documentation of extenuating circumstances or significant issues in the knee which indicate the need for specialized equipment at this time or access to aqua therapy. A Follow up Consultation report dated December 17, 2013 identifies Subjective complaints of recalls frequent inability to adhere to recommended exercise regime without medication on board, due to pain, now maintained with medication. Objective findings identify tenderness right knee medial and lateral joint line. Range of motion essentially unchanged. Gait is slightly more brisk. Diagnoses identify end-stage osteoarthritis, right knee and status post left total knee arthroplasty, February 2010. Discussion identifies continue with request for gym membership for 12 months with access to aqua therapy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

GYM MEMBERSHIP X 12 MONTHS WITH ACCESS TO AQUA THERAPY: 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).

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 46-47.

Decision rationale: Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state that exercise is recommended. They go on to state that there is no sufficient evidence to support the recommendation of any particular exercise regimen over any other exercise regimen. ODG states the gym memberships are not recommended as a medical prescription unless a documented home exercise program with periodic assessment and revision has not been effective and there is a need for equipment. Plus, treatment needs to be monitored and administered by medical professionals. With unsupervised programs there is no information flow back to the provider, so he or she can make changes in the prescription, and there may be a risk of further injury to the patient. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication that the patient has failed a home exercise program with periodic assessment and revision. Additionally, there is no indication that the patient has been trained on the use of gym equipment, or that the physician is overseeing the gym exercise program. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested gym membership with access to aqua therapy is not medically necessary.