

Case Number:	CM14-0015162		
Date Assigned:	02/28/2014	Date of Injury:	01/14/2008
Decision Date:	06/27/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/06/2014

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 Texas. 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 injured worker is a 71-year-old male who sustained an injury to his right knee on 01/14/08 when he was standing on a pallet, his left foot went through the pallet causing a twisting injury to the right knee. The injured worker subsequently underwent arthroscopic surgery to the right knee dated 07/09/08. Treatment to date has included medications, physical therapy, hyaluronic acid injections, Cortisone injections and chiropractic manipulation treatment. The injured worker continued to complain a sharp pains in the bilateral calves and feet. He stated he has discomfort most of the time and his knees feel weak. The injured worker ambulates with a cane for balance.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ARTHROSCOPY RIGHT KNEE WITH SURGICAL RELEASE OF ADHESION AND MANIPULATION UNDER ANESTHESIA: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee and leg chapter, Manipulation under anesthesia (MUA).

Decision rationale: The request for arthroscopic right knee with surgical release of adhesion and manipulation under anesthesia is not medically necessary. The previous request was denied on the basis that there was a medical record dated 10/17/13 indicating that the injured worker had declined future surgery and wanted only medical care. The available records did not indicate that there had been a complete work up for painful arthroplasty in other words assessing for the various sources of painful arthroplasty. Further to this, the ODG considers manipulations post arthroplasty would be failure to achieve greater than 90½ of flexion within six weeks of surgery. After reviewing the submitted records, there was no additional significant objective clinical information provided that was support reversing the previous adverse determination. Given the clinical documentation submitted for review, medical necessity of the request for arthroscopic right knee with surgical release of adhesion and manipulation under anesthesia has not been established. Recommended non-certification.

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 base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee and leg chapter, Manipulation under anesthesia (MUA).

Decision rationale: The request for assistant surgeon is not medically necessary. Given that the arthroscopic right knee with surgical release of adhesion and manipulation under anesthesia procedure was non-certified, medical necessity of the request for assistant surgeon is also non-certified. Recommend non-certification.