

Case Number:	CM14-0017692		
Date Assigned:	04/16/2014	Date of Injury:	02/07/2007
Decision Date:	06/03/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/12/2014

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:

This is a 58-year-old female who injured her bilateral knees on 02/07/07. She is currently with a diagnosis of degenerative joint disease bilaterally for which records indicate she has been treated with recent corticosteroid and Euflexxa injections. A handwritten PR2 report of 01/07/14 indicated continued bilateral knee complaints with catching and popping with physical examination findings showing medial crepitation to the left knee and medial crepitation with an effusion and diminished range of motion to the right knee. The claimant was once again diagnosed with degenerative joint disease to the bilateral knees. Recommendations were for continued Euflexxa injections as well as a bilateral Platelet-rich plasma injection for further treatment.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

PLATELET RICH PLASMA INJECTION X 1 FOR BILATERAL KNEES: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG KNEE AND LEG CHAPTER, PLATELET-RICH PLASMA INJECTION.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES (ODG).

Decision rationale: When looking at Official Disability Guidelines criteria, Platelet-rich plasma (PRP) is still under study for use in the knee with promising results noted for chronic refractory patellar tendinitis. At present, there would be no acute indication for the use of this agent in the setting of advanced degenerative joint disease. Guideline criteria would not support the role of bilateral platelet rich plasma injections. The request is therefore not medically necessary and appropriate.