

Case Number:	CM14-0112226		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	01/12/2004
Decision Date:	10/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/17/2014

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 Family Medicine, and is licensed to practice in North Carolina. 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 is a 48-year-old with a reported date of injury of 01/12/2004. The patient has the diagnoses of right hip osteoarthritis. The most recent progress report by a treating physician is dated 01/18/2013. The patient had complaints of stiffness in the hip. The physical exam noted decreased range of motion in the right hip with crepitus and stiff gait. Treatment plan included continuation of medications and a repeat series of Synvisc injection if the first series resulted in significant improvement that lasted for greater than 6 months. There were no more current treatment/progress notes provided for review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One Synvisc injection to the right hip with traction in operating room, under anesthesia:
Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Hip & Pelvis (Acute & Chronic) Hip Intra-articular injections

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) hip intra-articular injections

Decision rationale: Neither the California MTUS nor the ACOEM specifically address the requested service. Per the ODG section on intra-articular hip injections: Not recommended in early hip osteoarthritis. Under study for moderately advanced or severe hip osteoarthritis, but if used should be in conjunction with fluoroscopic guidance. Recommended as an option for short-term pain relief in hip trochanteric bursitis. The hip joint is one of the most difficult joint in the body to inject accurately and entry of the therapeutic agent into the synovial space cannot be guaranteed without fluoroscopic guidance. Viscosupplementation is recommended as a possible option for severe osteoarthritis which has not responded to conservative treatment. It is used as a therapeutic alternative in patients who have failed non-pharmacological and analgesic treatment, particularly if surgery is not an option. Per the utilization review, the patient has been certified for a series of three injections to the right hip on 05/12/2014. These records are not available for my review. The necessity for these injections cannot be established with the documentation provided. There is mention of a trial of injection but no clinical outcome data is provided. There is also no documentation of failure of non-pharmacological and analgesic treatment provided for review. There is also no indication why the procedure would need to be performed under anesthesia and traction. For these reasons, the medical necessity criteria have not been met for the requested Synvisc Injection To The Right Hip With Traction In Operating Room, Under Anesthesia.