

Case Number:	CM14-0122533		
Date Assigned:	08/06/2014	Date of Injury:	05/29/2014
Decision Date:	11/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/16/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/04/2014

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 Practice, 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:

56 yr. old male claimant sustained a work injury on 5/29/14 involving the neck, back and right knee. A progress note on 7/3/14 indicated the claimant had 7/10 right knee pain. Exam findings were notable for a negative McMurray' test but limited flexion. He was diagnosed with a right knee strain. The physician wanted to evaluate for a possible meniscal tear of the right knee and an MRI was requested due to 5 weeks of knee pain.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI right knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 341-343.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 346.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM guidelines, an MRI of the knee is not recommended for collateral ligament tears. It is recommended pre-operatively for determining the extent of an ACL tear. The exam findings do not suggest a meniscal injury of ACL tear. X-ray of the knee was not noted. The request for an MRI of the knee is not medically necessary.