

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0146401		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	09/29/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/29/2002
<b>Decision Date:</b>	11/05/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/29/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/09/2014

### 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 and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in Maryland. 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 57-year old female with a work injury dated 10/29/02. The diagnoses include current tear of medial cartilage and or meniscus of knee localized, primary osteoarthritis osteoarthritis of knee peripheral neuralgia and synovial plica. Under consideration are requests for toilet rails for the bathroom floor per 8/18/14 RX. There is an 8/22/14 follow up visit for her bilateral knees. She has found out she has lymphedema. Because of this diagnosis she hasn't gone to physical therapy. She does try to strengthen her legs along with mobility on her own at home, twice a week. She continues to have a strength Issue with her knees. She is unable to push herself up from a sitting position or squat to use the bathroom. She states that her knees are less swollen today. She does ambulate using her walker. On exam there is a knee strength issue with extension 4/5. There is lymphedema. The treatment plan included a request for safety bars as she is unable to elevate from regular toilet..

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**TOILET RAILS FOR BATHROOM FLOOR, PER 08/18/14 RX:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES

**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-DME

**Decision rationale:** Toilet rails for the bathroom floor per 8/18/14 Rx are not medically necessary per the ODG guidelines. The MTUS does not address this issue. The ODG states that DME is defined as equipment which is customarily used to serve a medical purpose; can withstand repeated use (normally be rented); is not useful without illness/injury; and is appropriate for use in the patient's home. The documentation does not indicate that a home evaluation was performed prior to installing equipment. The documentation does not indicate a thorough evaluation of the patient's upper body musculoskeletal/neurological function to indicate that toilet rails will be safely utilized. The request for the bathroom floor per 8/18/14 is not medically necessary.