

Case Number:	CM14-0162585		
Date Assigned:	11/03/2014	Date of Injury:	12/19/2010
Decision Date:	12/10/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/01/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/03/2014

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 & Rehabilitation 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 62-year old female patient with a date of injury on 12/19/2010. The mechanism of injury occurred when she tripped over a pick cart and fell to her knees. In a progress noted dated 8/23/2014, the patient complained of left knee pain rated 7/10 and right knee pain rated 2-3/10. Plains films and MRI's of the right knee were performed over 2 years ago. Objective findings: neurologic examination reveals altered bilateral upper and lower extremities, and decreased range of motion with pain in right upper extremity, right lower extremity, left upper extremity, left lower extremity. The remainder of physical examination was otherwise unremarkable. The diagnostic impression shows knee and leg pain, acute and chronic bilateral knee pain, MRI greater than 2 years, and right medial and lateral meniscal tear. MRI of right knee on 6/6/2012: A complex tear posterior horn medial meniscus with adjacent chondral lesion medial femoral condyle with mild bone marrow edema of femur. Treatment to date: medication management, behavioral modification, right knee arthroscopic partial medial and lateral meniscectomy on 6/8/2012. A UR decision dated 10/1/2014 denied the request for Bilateral Knee MRI. The rationale provided regarding the denial was that there was insufficient documentation of significant knee deficits, such as positive provocative maneuvers or limited range of motion. Furthermore, there was no documentation of ligament instability or internal derangement.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Bilateral Knee MRI: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 335-336. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee and Leg Chapter-MRI

Decision rationale: CA MTUS recommends MRI for an unstable knee with documented episodes of locking, popping, giving way, recurrent effusion, clear signs of a bucket handle tear, or to determine extent of ACL tear preoperatively. In addition, ODG criteria include acute trauma to the knee, significant trauma, suspect posterior knee dislocation; nontraumatic knee pain and initial plain radiographs either nondiagnostic or suggesting internal derangement. An MRI of right knee on 6/6/2012 revealed a complex tear posterior horn medial meniscus with adjacent chondral lesion medial femoral condyle with mild bone marrow edema of femur. However, in the 8/23/2014 physical examination, there were no significant deficits noted, such as instability or trauma of the bilateral knees that would warrant an MRI in this case. Furthermore, in the documentation provided, recent plain films were not provided for review. Therefore, the request for MRI of the bilateral knees is not medically necessary.