

Case Number:	CM14-0167156		
Date Assigned:	10/14/2014	Date of Injury:	05/31/2007
Decision Date:	11/17/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/10/2014

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:

73 year old male claimant sustained a work injury in 2007 involving the back, hips and left knee. He had return his medical meniscus from a prior injury and required another surgery. He was diagnosed with osteoarthritis of the knees and hip as well as degenerative disc disease of the lumbar spine. A progress note on 6/12/14 indicated the claimant had continued pain in the left knee. Examination showed prepatellar tenderness and medial joint line and femoral condyle tenderness. A Spect scan of the knees performed on 6/24/14 indicated moderate uptake along the left tibial plateau. An arthrogram was recommended.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

SPECT of the knees: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG (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) SPECT and Knee pain

Decision rationale: The ACOEM guidelines do not comment on SPECT scans for knee injuries. According to the ODG guidelines, SPECT is not recommended. Soft tissue injuries are best

evaluated with an MRI. There was no indication in the documentation justifying the SPECT scan over other imaging modalities. The SPECT was not medically necessary.