

Case Number:	CM14-0169090		
Date Assigned:	10/17/2014	Date of Injury:	01/20/2011
Decision Date:	11/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/15/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/14/2014

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 Neurology, has a subspecialty in Neuromuscular Medicine and is licensed to practice in New Jersey. 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 59-year-old man who sustained a work related injury on January 20, 2011. Subsequently, he developed chronic knees pain. The patient underwent left knee medial and lateral meniscectomy with chondroplasty on February 24, 2011. He also underwent arthroscopic partial medial and lateral meniscectomy with chondroplasty of mediolateral compartment, chondroplasty of patellofemoral chondromalacia, and limited synovectomy intracondylar region right side dated August 13, 2013. MRI of the left knee dated June 11, 2014 documented multifocal bony degenerative spurring of the left knee. Signs of ligament tear and partial tear of the posterior cruciate ligament with abnormal intrameniscal signal. According to the progress report dated September 5, 2014, the patient reported that the Orthovisc injection series that he has had in the past has helped him significantly. He is still noticing benefits from the injections in the right knee. With regard to his left knee, he stated having moderate pain and startup stiffness that lasts less than 30 minutes after sitting for prolonged period of time. He has been spinning on the bicycle, which has helped with the stiffness. On examination of his left knee, his range of motion was 0 to 110 degrees with moderate patellofemoral crepitation. He has lateral joint line tenderness. He does have some bony enlargement. No palpable warmth of the synovium. The knee was stable to anterior, posterior, medial, and lateral stress. The patient was diagnosed with bilateral knee osteoarthritis. The provider recommended orthovisc injections left knee.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Orthovisc Injections Left Knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Knee & Leg (8/25/14) _ Hyaluronic acid injections

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Hyaluronic acid injections,
<http://www.worklossdatainstitute.verioiponly.com/odgtwc/knee.htm#Hyaluronicacidinjections>.

Decision rationale: According to ODG guidelines, Hyaluronic acid injections is recommended as a possible option for severe osteoarthritis for patients who have not responded adequately to recommended conservative treatments (exercise, NSAIDs or acetaminophen), to potentially delay total knee replacement, but in recent quality studies the magnitude of improvement appears modest at best. There is no recent documentation of severe left knee osteoarthritis that did not respond to pain medications and intra-articular injections therefore the prescription of left knee orthovisc injections not medically necessary.