

Case Number:	CM14-0169130		
Date Assigned:	10/17/2014	Date of Injury:	05/05/2005
Decision Date:	11/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/10/2014
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 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida and New York. 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 injured worker is a 38 year old gentleman who works as a highway patrol officer who had a motor vehicle accident while at work on 5/05/05. He injured his right knee, an MRI of the right knee on 4/14/14 revealed previous partial meniscectomy versus radial tearing with possible loose bodies. The injured worker failed conservative care including non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), extensive physical therapy (PT), home exercise program, and prior injections. Previous requests for platelet rich plasma was denied because the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) articulated that platelet rich plasma is recommended as a single injection and as a second line therapy after first line PT, such as eccentric loading, stretching & strengthening exercises have not been affective. The request is for Platelet rich plasma injection - right knee.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Platelet rich plasma injection - right knee: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG)

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) - Platelet Rich Plasma

Decision rationale: The rationale for the decision is based on review of the records which indicates that the patient had extensive physical therapy from June through at least August of 2014. Despite this, the injured worker continues to have clinical symptoms and functional symptoms of the right knee. Platelet rich plasma (PRP) injection may be beneficial to help him restore the functionality of the knee. It is noted that the injured worker had previous visco-supplementation which increased the pain. In addition, the injured worker is status post knee arthroscopy with removal of hardware. As stated above since the injured worker did appear to have PT, which can be inferred to have included eccentric loading, stretching & strengthening exercises which were not effective. Therefore, this request is medically necessary.