

Case Number:	CM14-0170355		
Date Assigned:	10/20/2014	Date of Injury:	03/29/2012
Decision Date:	11/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/24/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/15/2014

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:

The 53 years old claimant sustained a work injury on 3/29/12 involving the right shoulder, elbow and knee. He was diagnosed with right shoulder calcification, right shoulder impingement, right elbow epicondylitis and right knee strain. Prior x-rays of the knee were normal. A progress note on 8/6/14 indicated the claimant had right knee pain. An exam of the right knee was not performed. An MRI of the knee was requested.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI right knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Knee Section: MRI

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 346.

Decision rationale: According to the ACOEM guidelines, an MRI of the knee is not recommended for collateral ligament tears. It is recommended pre-operatively for determining the extent of an ACL tear. In this case, there was no clinical exam to necessitate an MRI of the knee. There was no plan for surgery. The request for a knee MRI is not medically necessary.