MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM14-0173030		
Date Assigned:	10/23/2014	Date of Injury:	03/25/2011
Decision Date:	11/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/20/2014

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 General Preventive Medicine and is licensed to practice in Indiana. 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 employee is a 46 year old male with date of injury of 3/25/2011. A review of the medical records indicate that the patient is undergoing treatment for right knee pain status post surgery to fix medial meniscal tear. Subjective complaints include continued pain, numbness, and tingling in the right knee. Objective findings include right knee tender to palpation over the medial, lateral, and patellar aspects; full range of motion with pain; walks without limp. Treatment has included right knee surgery in on 9/15/2011. The utilization review dated 9/19/2014 denied MRA of the right knee.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRA of the right knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 343.

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Decision rationale: Regarding imaging of the knee and MRA's (Magnetic Resonance Arthrography), the above cited guidelines state: "Reliance only on imaging studies to evaluate the source of knee symptoms may carry a significant risk of diagnostic confusion (false-positive

test results) because of the possibility of identifying a problem that was present before symptoms began, and therefore has no temporal association with the current symptoms. ... Also note that MRIs are superior to arthrography for both diagnosis and safety reasons."The employee had an MRI of the right knee on 5/3/2014 which showed hardware in the distal tiba with artifact that limiting full diagnostic evaluation. Since then, there have been no changes or red flags noted upon physical exam. There is no medical documentation discussing the reason for the MRA and what additional information the MRA would provide and what diagnostic or therapeutic value it would have. Therefore, the request for an MRA of the right knee is not medically necessary.