

Case Number:	CM14-0028326		
Date Assigned:	06/16/2014	Date of Injury:	06/18/2012
Decision Date:	07/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/05/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in Mississippi. 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 employee is a 43-year-old male injured on June 18, 2012. The mechanism of injury was lifting a heavy metal base while assembling an industrial meat grinder injuring the right knee and lower back. The most recent progress note, dated January 22, 2014, indicates that there were ongoing complaints of right knee pain located anteriorly, worse with kneeling and descending the stairs. The physical examination demonstrated well healed portal incisions, no swelling or tenderness to palpation of lateral joint line. There was a negative McMurray's and bounce home test. He has pain with patella femoral compression. The injured employee's knee motion is 0- 110. The injured employee has a mild antalgic gait. The physical examination demonstrated a 5 feet 6 inches, 197 pound individual in no acute distress. Previous treatment included cognitive therapy, postoperative physical therapy, steroid injections with minimal relief, right knee arthroscopy for partial lateral meniscectomy, synovectomy of medial parapatellar plica resection on July 8, 2013 and multiple medications. A request had been made for one series of three Euflexxa injections under ultrasound guidance and was not certified in the pre-authorization process on February 2, 2014.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ONE SERIES OF THREE EUFLEXXA INJECTIONS UNDER ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints.

Decision rationale: Based on the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) guidelines, viscosupplementation is indicated for moderate to severe osteoarthritis that has failed conservative treatment. The clinical findings and symptoms documented do not clinically warrant the series of euflexxa injections. Radiographs show no narrowing of joint spaces. Conditions such as patella femoral syndrome (as outlined by the complaints offered by the injured employee and the physical examination reported) do not provide sufficient evidence to support the use of hyaluronic acid injections to lubricate joints. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.