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| Case Number: | CM14-0029557 | | |
| Date Assigned: | 06/16/2014 | Date of Injury: | 02/07/2007 |
| Decision Date: | 07/30/2014 | UR Denial Date: | 02/19/2014 |
| Priority: | Standard | Application Received: | 03/07/2014 |

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 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 injured worker is a 59-year-old female who reported an injury on 02/07/2007 due to cumulative trauma. On 02/11/2014, the injured worker presented with improvements from Euflexxa. Upon examination, the right knee was positive with medial McMurray's and there was left knee crepitus and pain. The left shoulder revealed positive Hawkin's, Neer's, and impingement signs. The diagnoses were bilateral knee, and degenerative disc disease. Prior treatment included medications. The provider recommended platelet rich plasma injections to the right shoulder. The provider's rationale was not provided. The Request for Authorization form was not included in the medical documents for review.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

platelet rich plasma injection to the right shoulder: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Shoulder Chapter.

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

Decision rationale: The Official Disability Guidelines state that platelet rich plasma is under study. PRP has become popular among professional athletes because it promises to enhance performance, but there is no science behind it yet. As the guidelines state that platelet rich plasma is still under study, these injections would not be warranted. As such, the request is not medically necessary.