

Case Number:	CM14-0038765		
Date Assigned:	06/27/2014	Date of Injury:	11/14/2013
Decision Date:	07/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/19/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/02/2014

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 Pennsylvania. 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 claimant is a 51 year old female, injured on 11/14/13 when she was kneeling and felt an acute onset of pain in the right knee. She was diagnosed with a complex tear of the medial meniscus for which arthroscopy was recommended. There is no documentation within the records provided for review that indicate the surgical process has taken place. There is currently a request for twelve sessions of physical therapy for the claimant's right knee and the request is noted to be for post operative therapy according to the records.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

12 sessions Post op physical therapy 3x4 for right knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: MTUS guidelines do not support the request for post operative physical therapy. Although the medical records document that the claimant has meniscal pathology, there is no clear indication that surgical process has taken place. Without documentation that the surgery has been certified or has taken place, the request for post operative physical therapy is not medically necessary.