

Case Number:	CM14-0040898		
Date Assigned:	06/27/2014	Date of Injury:	08/03/2011
Decision Date:	08/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/26/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/07/2014

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 and Rehabilitation and is licensed to practice in Nevada. 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:

According to the Official Disability Guidelines the use of a continuous flow cryotherapy unit is recommended as an option after surgery. Postoperative use may generally be up to seven days including home usage. Continuous flow cryotherapy units have been proven to decrease pain, inflammation, swelling, and narcotic usage. While the injured employee may very well benefit from the use of a continuous flow cryotherapy unit it should be limited to seven days. Therefore, the request for a 30 day postoperative rental of a cold unit is not medically necessary and appropriate.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Thirty day post-operative rental of cold unit: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, knee and leg chapter, continuous-flow cryotherapy section.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee and Leg, Continuous Flow Cryotherapy, Updated June 5, 2014.

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines the use of a continuous flow cryotherapy unit is recommended as an option after surgery. Postoperative use may generally be up to seven days including home usage. Continuous flow cryotherapy units have been proven to decrease pain, inflammation, swelling, and narcotic usage. While the injured employee may very well benefit from the use of a continuous flow cryotherapy unit it should be limited to seven days. Therefore, the request for a 30 day postoperative rental of a cold unit is not medically necessary and appropriate.