

Case Number:	CM14-0047598		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	11/23/1999
Decision Date:	08/12/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/31/2014

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:

The injured worker is a 44-year-old male who was reportedly injured on November 23, 1999. The mechanism of injury was not listed in these records reviewed. The most recent progress note dated February 4, 2014, indicated that there were ongoing complaints of bilateral knee pain and pain with squatting. The physical examination demonstrated tenderness along the lateral compartment of each knee, a mild effusion, and range of motion from 0 to 120. There were well healed arthroscopic portals from prior surgery. Diagnostic imaging studies reported bilateral chondromalacia of the lateral compartment of both knees. Previous treatment included synvisc injections and steroid injections. A request had been made for Donjoy Drytex playmaker braces for bilateral knees.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Donjoy Drytex playmaker braces for bilateral knees: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

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, Knee braces, updated June 5, 2014.

Decision rationale: According to the Official Disability Guidelines, a knee brace is only indicated for conditions of knee instability, ligamentous insufficiency, ligament reconstruction, avascular necrosis, surgery for articular defects and meniscal cartilage repair, failed total knee arthroplasty, painful high tibial osteotomy, unit compartment osteoarthritis, and tibial plateau fractures. According to the attached medical record, the injured employee has chondromalacia and does not have any of these other conditions. Therefore, this request for Donjoy Drytex playmaker braces for bilateral knees is not medically necessary.