

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0051456		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/23/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/30/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/07/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/27/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/20/2014

### 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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine and is licensed to practice in Florida and Texas. 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 patient is a 43 year old female who was injured on 7/30/2009. The diagnoses are right knee pain and low back pain. There is an associated diagnosis of depression. The past surgery history is significant for 3 right knee surgeries. The patient completed lumbar epidural steroid injections, nerve blocks and PT with 50% reduction in pain. The EMG/NCV done in 2010 was reported as normal. The 2013 MRI of the lumbar spine showed degenerative disc disease and facet arthropathy. The patient was evaluated by [REDACTED] who did not recommend surgical intervention. The records show that the patient has been under pain specialist [REDACTED] care since late 2013. It is unclear why she is being referred to a new Pain Specialist. In September 2013, Pain Specialist [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] discharged the patient from their Pain Clinic because of a Positive UDS test of marijuana and possible culpability in 2 forged prescriptions for hydrocodone. A Utilization Review determination was rendered on 2/27/2014 recommending non certification for Pain management Consultation for right knee with [REDACTED].

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Pain management consultation for the right knee:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition, 2004 page 127.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Page(s): 127.

**Decision rationale:** The CA MTUS addressed the indications for referrals for specialists treatment for patients with chronic musculoskeletal pain syndrome. Referrals to other healthcare professionals may be necessary if the diagnosis is uncertain, there are co-existing complex psychosocial factors or if the course of treatment will benefit from additional expertise. A referral may be for Consultation to aid in the diagnosis, therapeutic management, determination of medical status and prognosis or Return to Work status. The records indicate that the patient had been under treatment from many Pain Management specialists for many years. In September 2013, [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] discharged the patient from their Pain Clinic due to aberrant behaviors such as positive marijuana in the Urine Drug Screen (UDS) and implications in forgery of 2 hydrocodone prescriptions. The patient then started attending [REDACTED] Pain Clinic on 10/31/2013. The last available progress note from [REDACTED] was dated 1/19/2014. It is unclear why a referral to another Pain Specialist is being requested. The criteria for Referral for Pain Management Consultation for the right knee was not met.