

Case Number:	CM14-0064919		
Date Assigned:	07/14/2014	Date of Injury:	08/29/2013
Decision Date:	08/21/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/07/2014

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 Emergency Medicine and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 60-year-old male, with past history of psoriatic arthritis, who was injured on August 29, 2013. The patient continued to experience pain in his right knee. Physical examination was notable for varus deformity of the right knee with palpable effusion. A total knee arthroplasty was recommended for treatment but was postponed due to post hip replacement, septic joint and septicemia in January 2014. The diagnosis also included right knee arthritis. Treatment included surgery, supartz injections into right knee, and medications. Request for authorization for bilateral T.E.D. hose compression stockings was submitted for consideration.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Bilateral Knee T.E.D Hose Compression Stockings: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines; online edition/ Chapter Knee & Leg.

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, Compression garments.

Decision rationale: There is good evidence for the use of Compression garments, but little is known about dosimetry in compression, for how long and at what level compression should be applied. Low levels of compression 10-30 mmHg applied by stockings are effective in the management of telangiectases after sclerotherapy, varicose veins in pregnancy, and the prevention of edema and deep vein thrombosis (DVT). High levels of compression produced by bandaging and strong compression stockings (30-40 mmHg) are effective at healing leg ulcers and preventing progression of post-thrombotic syndrome as well as in the management of lymphedema. In this case, the patient did not undergo sclerotherapy. There are no circumstances that required the prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Therefore, there is not a medical necessity.