

Case Number:	CM14-0073596		
Date Assigned:	07/16/2014	Date of Injury:	03/14/2001
Decision Date:	08/14/2014	UR Denial Date:	04/21/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/20/2014

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

This is a patient with a date of injury of March 14, 2001. A utilization review determination dated April 21, 2014 recommends noncertification of a compression garment from the foot to the knee. Noncertification was recommended as the patient is already using compression stockings and there is no documentation as to why premium compression stockings would be needed. A progress report dated April 11, 2014 identifies subjective complaints including left knee pain with buckling and left ankle pain. The patient also has persistent swelling in the lower extremity. Objective examination findings identify tenderness around the left knee and ankle. Diagnosis includes left knee medial meniscus tear. The treatment plan indicates that the patient was cleared for a left knee arthroscopy. A progress report dated May 15, 2014 identifies subjective complaints including increasing left knee pain. The patient has continued edema in the lower extremities and has failed Jobst stockings, decreased efficacy now worn out. The need is for adjustable compression. Objective examination findings identify crepitus in the knee and swelling in the knee. Diagnoses included left knee medial meniscus tear. The treatment plan recommends bilateral Circaid compression devices for chronic edema, need adjustable compression for daily use. Notes indicate that the patient has a history of deep vein thrombosis which has resulted in the edema.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Premium Bilateral Circaid compression garment foot to knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Section: Knee and 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 & Leg, Compression Garments.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for Premium Bilateral Circaid compression garment foot to knee, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines are silent on the issue. ODG states low levels of compression 10-30 mmHg applied by stockings are effective in the management of telangiectases after sclerotherapy, varicose veins in pregnancy, 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. Within the documentation available for review, it appears the patient has a history of deep vein thrombosis which has resulted in the edema. The patient has been using Jobst stockings for quite some time. The requesting physician has indicated that the Jobst stockings are worn out. He has gone on to state that the patient has failed Jobst stockings, but does not include any specific information regarding how the Jobst stockings have failed, and how the currently requested Premium stockings would improve the patient's symptoms above and beyond what was obtained with the Jobst stockings. In the absence of clarity regarding those issues, the currently requested Premium Bilateral Circaid compression garment foot to knee is not medically necessary.