

Case Number:	CM14-0096331		
Date Assigned:	07/25/2014	Date of Injury:	04/01/2014
Decision Date:	08/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/02/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/24/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery 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:

The injured worker is a 40-year-old who reported an industrial injury on 4/1/14. Claimant sustained right foot and knee injury. Exam note from 5/9/14 demonstrates persistent right knee pain. Claimant is reported to have completed 6 visits of PT. Objective exam demonstrates tenderness at the right knee medial joint line. Valgus and Varus stress is noted to be positive. Exam note demonstrates full range of motion in the right knee. Diagnosis is made of sprain or strain of the knee and contusion of the foot.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Referral to orthopedic specialist- eval & treat/ transfer of care: 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 American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004) page 79, Chapter 7, page 127.

Decision rationale: According to the CA MTUS/ACOEM, page 79, under the optimal system, a clinician acts as the primary case manager. The clinician provides appropriate medical evaluation and treatment and adheres to a conservative evidence-based treatment approach that limits excessive physical medicine usage and referral. Per the CA MTUS ACOEM 2004, Chapter 7,

page 127 states the occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial facts are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. In this case the records cited from 5/9/14 do not demonstrate any objective evidence or failure of conservative care or red flags to warrant a specialist referral. Therefore the determination is for not medically necessary.