

Case Number:	CM14-0186317		
Date Assigned:	11/14/2014	Date of Injury:	12/06/2012
Decision Date:	01/12/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/08/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/09/2014

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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 34-year-old female with a 12/6/12 date of injury, and status post right knee partial medial meniscectomy 9/19/14. At the time (10/8/14) of request for authorization for right knee brace wrap around with hinges for purchase, there is documentation of subjective (persistent swelling, discomfort in the right knee as well as giving way) and objective (right knee range of motion 135 flexion, 180 extension, tenderness along the medial synovial plica of the right knee) findings, current diagnoses (right knee hypertrophic synovial plica), and treatment to date (physical therapy, activity modification, knee cortisone injection, and medications).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right Knee Brace Wrap Around With Hinges for Purchase: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines Knee & Leg (update 10/07/14) Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 340. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee, Knee braces

Decision rationale: MTUS reference to ACOEM Guidelines identifies that a brace can be used for patellar instability, anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear, or medial collateral ligament (MCL) instability; and that a brace is necessary only if the patient is going to be stressing the knee under load. In addition, MTUS identifies that braces need to be properly fitted and combined with a rehabilitation program. ODG identifies documentation of a condition/diagnosis for which a knee brace is indicated (such as: knee instability, ligament insufficiency/deficiency, reconstructed ligament, articular defect repair, avascular necrosis, meniscal cartilage repair, painful failed TKA, painful high tibial osteotomy, painful unicompartmental osteoarthritis, and tibial plateau fracture), as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of a knee brace. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of right knee hypertrophic synovial plica. In addition, given documentation of 9/19/14 right knee partial medial meniscectomy, there is documentation of a condition/diagnosis for which a knee brace is indicated (meniscal cartilage repair). Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for right knee brace wrap around with hinges for purchase is medically necessary.