

Case Number:	CM14-0194872		
Date Assigned:	12/02/2014	Date of Injury:	09/10/2012
Decision Date:	01/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	10/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/20/2014

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 & Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine 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 patient is a 57 year old male with injury date on 9/10/12. The patient complains of significant but improved left knee pain per 8/25/14 report. The patient improved after initial injury, but re-injured left knee in 2012 when he twisted it, and felt a pop, after which an MRI showed a tear of lateral meniscus per 8/25/14 report. The patient is s/p arthroscopic surgery on 2/11/13 and is still currently on crutches per 8/25/14 report. The patient is on Celebrex and Norco and began Voltaren gel to decreased amount of NSAIDs to be taken per 7/14/14 report, which patient reported as helpful. Based on the 8/25/14 progress reported provided by the treating physician, the diagnoses are: 1. Tear lateral meniscus left knee s/p partial lateral meniscectomy with recurrent tear 2. Mild arthritis left knee with chronic left knee pain A physical exam on 8/25/14 showed "left knee range of motion is 0-120." The patient's treatment history includes medications (Norco, Voltaren gel, Celebrex), crutches, cryotherapy, physical therapy. The treating physician is requesting Orthovisc injection of the left knee. The utilization review determination being challenged is dated 10/22/14. The requesting physician provided treatment reports from 4/29/14 to 8/25/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Orthovisc injection of the left knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): table 13-6.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee Chapter on hyaluronic acid injections

Decision rationale: This patient presents with left knee pain. The treater has asked for Orthovisc injection of the left knee on 8/25/14. An MRI of the left knee showed a "posterior horn of the lateral meniscus consistent with twisting injury" which treater states is a "recurrent" tear per 8/25/14 report, as the original MRI was not included in reports. Review of the reports does not show any evidence of X-ray of the left knee being done in the past. Regarding hyaluronic acid injections, ODG recommends as a possible option for severe osteoarthritis for patients who have not responded adequately to recommended conservative treatments (exercise, NSAIDs or acetaminophen), to potentially delay total knee replacement. In this case, the patient has chronic left knee pain, and has failed conservative treatment and a prior arthroscopic left knee surgery (unspecified). There is no documentation, however, showing that the osteoarthritis is at an advanced stage, nor that the injection is to delay potential left knee replacement. The requested orthovisc injection of the left knee is not medically necessary.