

Case Number:	CM14-0199711		
Date Assigned:	12/05/2014	Date of Injury:	12/13/2007
Decision Date:	01/26/2015	UR Denial Date:	11/17/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/01/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management, and is licensed to practice in Georgia. 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 76-year-old male presenting with a work-related injury on December 13, 2007. On October 28, 2014 patient complained of left and right knee pain. The pain was rated a 3 to 8/10. The pain was described as stabbing, sharp, and achy. The patient reported that medications help. The physical exam of the left knee was significant for pain in the distal aspect of the left knee, no change with moderate crepitus in the left knee, limited range of motion with pain, and decreased strength on the left. The patient was diagnosed with chronic pain syndrome, sprain of unspecified site of the knee and let worse, and degenerative joint disease knee is worse.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Neoprene knee sleeve, extra-large purchase: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) 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 Complaints, Compression Garment

Decision rationale: Neoprene knee sleeve, extra-large purchase is not medically necessary. According to the Official Disability Guidelines, good evidence for the use of compression is available, a little is known about the symmetry and compression, or how long and at what level compression should be applied. Low levels of compression 10 - 30 and MG applied by stockings are effective in the management of telangiectasia this after sclerotherapy, varicose veins in pregnancy, the prevention of edema and deep vein thrombosis. High levels of compression produced by bandaging and strong compression stockings are effective at healing leg ulcers and preventing progression of post robotic syndrome as well as in the management of lymphedema. There is inconsistent evidence for compression stockings to prevent post robotic syndrome after first-time proximal deep vein thrombosis. These findings of study do not support routine wearing of elastic compression stockings after deep vein thrombosis. Additionally, The Official Disability Guidelines states that DME is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose and generally not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury. The request equipment is not primarily or customarily used for a medical purpose. The medical records also lacks an appropriate rational for use of this equipment. Finally, there is no documentation of the length of use of this equipment. The ODG states that in reference to orthotics that "early exercise, mobilization and independence should be encouraged at all steps of the injury recovery process." Therefore, the requested service is not medically necessary.