

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0030341		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/20/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/23/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/28/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/13/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/10/2014

### 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 Occupational Medicine 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 applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for chronic knee and leg pain reportedly associated with an industrial injury of October 23, 2003. In a Utilization Review Report dated February 13, 2014, the claims administrator denied a request for continuous passive motion device, stating that the applicant was not undergoing an ACL reconstruction surgery or total knee arthroplasty for which a CPM device would be indicated. The claims administrator stated that its decision was based on non-MTUS ODG guidelines but did not incorporate the same into its rationale. The claims administrator also cited an RFA form of January 29, 2014 in its denial. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. On November 6, 2013, the applicant received orthotics for ongoing complaints of foot and ankle pain. In an RFA form dated January 26, 2014, the attending provider stated that authorization was being sought for a right knee arthroscopy procedure with debridement, chondroplasty, and meniscectomy. A preoperative clearance, history and physical, EKG, unspecified labs, eight to eighteen sessions of physical therapy, continuous cooling device 14-day rental, Percocet, Motrin, Phenergan, Keflex, and 21-day continuous passive motion device were all endorsed via RFA forms, with little-to-no associated narrative commentary. In an earlier progress note dated December 30, 2013, the attending provider performed a knee corticosteroid injection.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Continuous passive motion x 21 days:** 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 and Leg (updated 01/20/14) Continuous passive motion (CPM)

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), knee & leg (updated 01/20/14) continuous passive motion (CPM)

**Decision rationale:** The MTUS does not address the topic. The Third Edition ACOEM Guidelines, however, note that continuous passive motion devices are not routinely recommended, even in applicants undergoing relatively major knee surgeries such as a total knee arthroplasty. Rather, ACOEM suggests that continuous passive motion devices be reserved for select, substantially physically inactive applicants postoperatively. In this case, the applicant was planning to undergo a relatively minor knee arthroscopy, meniscectomy, and chondroplasty surgery. There was no mention of the applicant's being substantially immobile or inactive. Little-to-no rationale accompanied the RFA form for the CPM device. Therefore, the request was not medically necessary.