

Case Number:	CM15-0007627		
Date Assigned:	02/06/2015	Date of Injury:	05/15/2014
Decision Date:	04/03/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/13/2015

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:
State(s) of Licensure: California
Certification(s)/Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

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 46 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on May 15, 2014. The diagnosis is not legible. Currently, the injured worker complains of knee pain if climbing stairs and physical therapy. In a progress note dated August 25, 2014, the treating provider reports slight pre patella bursa swelling PF crepitus, good range of motion. On December 22, 2014 Utilization Review non-certified a pre op medical clearance, noting, <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=48408> was cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Pre op medical clearance: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Perioperative Protocol. Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement 2014 Mar 124.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS and ODG are silent on the issue of preoperative clearance. Alternative guidelines were therefore referenced. <http://www.brighamandwomens.org/gms/Medical/preopprotocols.aspx>. The alternate guidelines states that patients greater than age 40 require a CBC; males require an ECG if greater than 40 and female is greater than age 50; this is for any type of surgery. In this case the claimant is 46 years old and does not have any evidence in the cited records from 08/25/14 of significant medical comorbidities to support a need for preoperative clearance. Therefore determination is for non-certification.