

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0103931		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/08/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/17/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/13/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	05/29/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/29/2015

### 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: Massachusetts

Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain Management

### 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 40 year old male who reported an industrial injury on 6/17/2013. His diagnoses, and/or impressions, are noted to include left elbow contusion and strain; right knee internal derangement and meniscal tear, status-post right knee arthroscopy with chondral debridement (10/2/13). No current imaging studies are noted. His treatments have included Report of Orthopaedic Panel Qualified Medical Evaluation on 1/6/2015; injection therapy; physical therapy - right knee; medication management; and rest from work. The progress notes of 3/14/2014 reported an orthopedic re-evaluation and treatment for complaints of ongoing, severe right knee pain, with the sensation of clicking and grinding, and improved some with physical therapy and Norco. Objective findings were noted to include an antalgic gait; tenderness and effusion in the left elbow; and positive grind maneuver, hamstring tenderness, severe tenderness in the medial and lateral aspect in the right knee, crepitus, mild effusion, swelling, positive stability tests, and painful, decreased range-of-motion in the right knee. The physician's requests for treatments were noted to include a Synvisc injection into the right knee for residual pain, status-post surgery.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Synvisc injection for the right knee:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Knee and Leg.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Pain (Chronic), Hyaluronic acid injections.

**Decision rationale:** According to the official disability guidelines, hyaluronic acid injections are recommended as a possible option for severe osteoarthritis for injured workers who have not responded adequately to recommended conservative treatments such as exercise, NSAIDs or acetaminophen after 3 months. Other criteria include, age over 50 years, pain that interferes with functional activities (ambulation, prolonged standing) and not attributed to other forms of joint disease, failure to respond to aspiration and injection of intra-articular steroids, are not currently candidates for total knee replacement or who have failed previous knee surgery for their arthritis, unless younger patients wanting to delay total knee replacement. According to the documents available for review, the injured worker does not meet the criteria for use of this agent as outlined in the ODG. Therefore, at this time the requirements for treatment have not been met, and medical necessity has not been established.