

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0131585		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	07/17/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/23/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	08/25/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	06/10/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	07/07/2015

### 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: Pennsylvania, Ohio, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

### 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 73 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 7/23/09. She had complaints of knee pain. Treatments include medication, physical therapy and surgery. Orthopedic progress report dated 2/18/15 reports complaints of right knee pain around the knee cap. The knee gets intermittently hot and she hears clicking. She walks with an assistive device. The pain is rated 7/10. Diagnoses include: aftercare following joint replacement, knee pain and osteoarthritis, knee. Plan of care includes: continue pain medications, follow up on previously provided prescription for outpatient physical therapy to include patellar taping and refer to pain management for pain medication refills. Follow up in 5 weeks.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Physical therapy 2 times per week for 6 weeks for the right knee: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

**Decision rationale:** MTUS encourages physical therapy with an emphasis on active forms of treatment and patient education. This guideline recommends transition from supervised therapy to active independent home rehabilitation. Given the timeline of this injury and past treatment, the patient would be anticipated to have previously transitioned to such an independent home rehabilitation program. The records do not provide a rationale at this time for additional supervised rather than independent rehabilitation. This request is not medically necessary.