

Case Number:	CM15-0134398		
Date Assigned:	07/22/2015	Date of Injury:	10/01/2012
Decision Date:	08/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	06/15/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/13/2015

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: 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 34 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 10/01/2012. The medical records submitted for this review did not include documentation regarding the initial injury of prior treatments to date. Diagnoses include right knee medial and lateral meniscus tear. Currently, she complained of right knee pain. On 5/18/15, the physical examination documented right knee tenderness. The plan of care included right knee arthroscopic partial medial meniscectomy. The appeal requested authorization for post-operative Home Health service five days a week for three week, four hours per day.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Postoperative Home Health of 3 weeks 5 days per week 4 hours per day: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home health services Page(s): 51.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines home health service Page(s): 51.

Decision rationale: The patient presents on 05/16/15 with unspecified complaints. The purpose of the visit is the discussion of delaying this patient's authorized partial medial meniscus, as the patient is currently breastfeeding a child and is attempting to wean prior to surgery. The patient's date of injury is 10/01/12. Patient has no documented surgical history directed at this complaint. The request is for Postoperative Home Health of 3 weeks 5 days per week 4 hours per day. The RFA is dated 05/16/15. Physical examination dated 05/16/15 reveals significant medial and lateral joint line tenderness in the right knee, and positive McMurray's sign. The joint is noted to be stable and there are no other positive physical findings. The patient's current medication regimen is not provided. Diagnostic imaging was not provided. Patient's current work status is not provided. MTUS Guidelines page 51 has the following regarding home service, "recommended only for otherwise recommended medical treatment for patients who are homebound on a part time or intermittent basis, generally up to no more than 35 hours per week. Medical treatment does not include homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, laundry, and personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom when this is the only care needed". In regard to the request for a post-operative health aide to assist this patient with childcare following planned surgery, such childcare services are not medical in nature and not supported by guidelines. In an addendum to the utilization reviewer/patient discussion, the requesting provider states "We are requesting authorization for the patient to have a home health for approximately three weeks after surgery to help with the care of her young son who is a toddler." While the care for children following a surgery of this nature will likely place hardship on the patient, MTUS guidelines does not support the use of home health aides for homemaker purposes, which includes child care. There is no discussion as to why this patient is unable to obtain help with childcare from the father, other family, or within her existing social framework. Such childcare services do not constitute medical treatment and cannot be substantiated according to MTUS guidelines. The request is not medically necessary.