

Case Number:	CM15-0147904		
Date Assigned:	08/10/2015	Date of Injury:	04/13/2001
Decision Date:	09/08/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/14/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/29/2015

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: California, Oregon, Washington
 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 59-year-old female who sustained an industrial injury on April 13, 2001 resulting in right knee pain. She is diagnosed with ankyloses of right the right knee, end stage right knee tricompartmental arthritis, chondromalacia of the right patella, and a history of deep vein thrombosis. Documented treatment has included previous unspecified right knee surgeries, knee braces, use of canes, and medications. The injured worker continues to report right knee pain, popping, locking, and instability. The treating physician's plan of care includes total knee arthroplasty including pre-op medical clearance. She is presently not working.

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: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Knee complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Low back.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of preoperative clearance and testing. ODG, Low back, Preoperative testing general, is utilized. This chapter states that preoperative testing is guided by the patient's clinical history, co-morbidities and physical examination findings. ODG states, "These investigations can be helpful to stratify risk, direct anesthetic choices, and guide postoperative management, but often are obtained because of protocol rather than medical necessity. The decision to order preoperative tests should be guided by the patient's clinical history, co-morbidities and physical examination findings. Patients with signs or symptoms of active cardiovascular disease should be evaluated with appropriate testing, regardless of their preoperative status. Preoperative ECG in patients without known risk factor for coronary artery disease, regardless of age, may not be necessary. CBC is recommended for surgeries with large anticipated blood loss. Creatinine is recommended for patient with renal failure. Electrocardiography is recommended for patients undergoing high risk surgery and those undergoing intermediate risk surgery who have additional risk factors. Patients undergoing low risk surgery do not require electrocardiography." Based on the information provided for review, there is no indication of any of these clinical scenarios present in this case. In this case the patient is a 59 year old with a past medical history of hypertension and rheumatoid arthritis per clinic note 6/30/15. She is without co-morbidities or physical examination findings concerning to warrant preoperative testing prior to the proposed surgical procedure. Therefore, the determination is for non-certification and the request is not medically necessary.