

Case Number:	CM15-0165037		
Date Assigned:	09/08/2015	Date of Injury:	06/10/2015
Decision Date:	10/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/22/2015

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: North Carolina

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 29 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 6-10-15 and currently has knee pain without improvement. Diagnoses are pain knee-patella right and sprain lumbosacral. In a progress report dated 7-15-15, the primary treating physician notes she continues with the same pain in the knee. The pain is described as sharp, mild and intermittent. There is pain with motion. There is a soft mass to the right medial joint line, which seems to be outside of the joint itself. Range of motion is within normal limits. McMurray's test is negative. The injured worker indicated an improvement to the back and she will continue physical therapy. The treatment plan is an MRI of the right knee and modified work with restrictions. The requested treatment is an outpatient MRI of the right knee.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Outpatient MRI of The Right Knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 343-347.

Decision rationale: The ACOEM chapter on knee complaints states that MRI is indicated to determine the extent of ACL tear preoperatively. Reliance only on imaging studies to evaluate the source of knee symptoms may carry a significant risk of diagnostic confusion (false-positive test results) because of the possibility of identifying a problem that was present before symptoms began, and therefore has no temporal association with the current symptoms. Even so, remember that while experienced examiners usually can diagnose an ACL tear in the non-acute stage based on history and physical examination, these injuries are commonly missed or over diagnosed by inexperienced examiners, making MRIs valuable in such cases. Criteria per the ACOEM for ordering an MRI of the knee in the provided documentation for review have not been met. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.