

Case Number:	CM15-0193785		
Date Assigned:	10/07/2015	Date of Injury:	02/28/1995
Decision Date:	11/16/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/02/2015

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: New York

Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine

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 56 year old male, who sustained an industrial-work injury on 2-28-95. He reported initial complaints of swelling in the extremities. The injured worker was diagnosed as having deep vein thrombosis status post patella fracture. Treatment to date has included medication, elastic compression hose, leg elevation, labs, and diagnostics. Currently, the injured worker complains of daily swelling and mild left leg discomfort. Medication included Coumadin. Per the primary physician's progress report (PR-2) on 5-19-15, exam noted moderate daily swelling of both feet and ankles (left greater than right) without calf tenderness. An abnormal venous duplex imaging and pulsed Doppler analysis on 3-17-15 revealed chronic non-occlusive deep vein thrombosis and valvular reflux with no evidence of deep vein thrombosis. On 5-21-15, exam noted no chest pain, shortness of breath, INR in 2.0 range, pitting edema to the left leg to the knee. Current plan of care includes continue Coumadin, labs, and follow up appointment. The Request for Authorization requested service to include venous duplex imaging and pulsed Doppler flow analysis. The Utilization Review on 9-25-15 denied the request for venous duplex imaging and pulsed Doppler flow analysis, per Official Disability Guidelines, Knee and Leg, (Acute & Chronic): Venous thrombosis (2015).

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Venous duplex imaging and pulsed Doppler flow analysis: 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, (Acute & Chronic): Venous thrombosis (2015).

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

Decision rationale: Ultrasonography is the current first-line imaging examination for deep venous thrombosis (DVT) because of its relative ease of use, absence of irradiation or contrast material, and high sensitivity and specificity in institutions with experienced sonographers. Compression ultrasonography entails imaging the calf to the groin in the axial plane with a 5- to 10-MHz transducer. Compression is intermittently applied to induce complete coaptation of the walls of the patent vein. If the vein does not compress, it is occluded. Attempts to visualize iliac and pelvic veins are made. In this case, the patient has a history of DVT and underwent a Venous Doppler study 3/17/2015 that demonstrated no change since the previous study 2 years prior. He has chronic non-occlusive deep vein thrombosis and valvular incompetence. In addition, at the evaluation 5/19/15 there were no findings noted related to any acute DVT related issues. There is no specific indication for the requested Venous Doppler study. Medical necessity for the requested study is not established. The requested study is not medically necessary.