

Case Number:	CM15-0204908		
Date Assigned:	10/21/2015	Date of Injury:	06/11/2013
Decision Date:	12/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	09/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/19/2015

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: Arizona, Texas

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 43 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 6-11-2013. Medical records indicate the worker is undergoing treatment for left knee arthroscopy. A recent progress report dated 8-20-2015, reported the injured worker presented for a follow up for left knee arthroscopy on 7-20-2015 and rated knee pain as 6 out of 10. Physical examination revealed no signs of infection and range of motion of 0-90 degrees. Treatment to date has included surgery, physical therapy and Hydrocodone (since at least 1-22-2015). On 9-16-2015, the Request for Authorization requested Hydrocodone 10mg. On 9-25-2015, the Utilization Review modified the request for Hydrocodone 10mg.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Hydrocodone 10mg: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Weaning of Medications.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Medical Treatment 2009, Section(s): Opioids for chronic pain.

Decision rationale: Management of patients using opioids for chronic pain control includes ongoing review and documentation of pain relief, functional status, appropriate medication use and side effects. The indication for continuing these medications include if the patient has returned to work or if the patient has improved functioning and pain. In this case the documentation doesn't support that the patient has had a meaningful improvement in function or pain while taking this medication. The continued use is not medically necessary.