

Case Number:	CM15-0030791		
Date Assigned:	02/24/2015	Date of Injury:	01/02/2013
Decision Date:	04/03/2015	UR Denial Date:	01/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/18/2015

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: Iowa, Illinois, Hawaii

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational Medicine, Public Health & General Preventive 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 40 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on January 3, 2013. The diagnosis was not in the progress note dated December 10, 2014. Treatment to date has included Magnetic resonance imaging of knee on November 20, 2014 and two braces on the right knee. Currently, the injured worker complains of right knee pain. In a progress note dated December 10, 2014, the treating provider reports normal range of motion and no evidence of effusion. On January 22, 2015 Utilization Review non-certified a Synvisc one (Hyalgan) injection right knee, noting, Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Guidelines, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Official Disability Guidelines was cited.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Synvisc One (Hyalgan) injection to the right knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Knee and Leg.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 337-352. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee, Hyaluronic acid injections.

Decision rationale: Orthovisc is a high molecular weight hyaluronan. MTUS is silent regarding the use of ultrasound guided orthovisc injections. While ACOEM guidelines do not specifically mention guidelines for usage of ultrasound guided orthovisc injections, it does state that "Invasive techniques, such as needle aspiration of effusions or prepatellar bursal fluid and cortisone injections, are not routinely indicated. Knee aspirations carry inherent risks of subsequent intraarticular infection." ODG recommends as guideline for Hyaluronic acid injections "Patients experience significantly symptomatic osteoarthritis but have not responded adequately to recommended conservative nonpharmacologic (e.g., exercise) and pharmacologic treatments or are intolerant of these therapies (e.g., gastrointestinal problems related to anti-inflammatory medications), after at least 3 months; Documented symptomatic severe osteoarthritis of the knee, which may include the following: Bony enlargement; Bony tenderness; Crepitus (noisy, grating sound) on active motion; Less than 30 minutes of morning stiffness; No palpable warmth of synovium; Over 50 years of age. Pain interferes with functional activities (e.g., ambulation, prolonged standing) and not attributed to other forms of joint disease; Failure to adequately respond to aspiration and injection of intra-articular steroids." The treating physician does not document symptomatic severe osteoarthritis. However, an MRI does document chondromalacia patella which is not an indication for a synvisc injection. The treating physician has not provided documentation to meet the above criteria at this time. As such, the request for Synvisc One (Hyalgan) injection to the right knee is not medically necessary.