

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0043498		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/13/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/03/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/16/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	02/24/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/06/2015

### 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

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

### 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 50 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 07/03/2014. He states he was attempting to open a stuck train door when he felt pain in the right shoulder. He presented on 12/29/2014 with complaints of pain in the right shoulder. He was post right shoulder arthroscopy with subacromial decompression, rotator cuff repair, SLAP lesion repair and open biceps tenodesis 11/20/2014. Physical exam noted good capillary refill and warmth in the hands and digits. Post-operative wounds were healing well without evidence of infection. Treatment to date includes MRI of right shoulder dated 09/29/2014 demonstrating a rotator cuff tear, physical therapy, cortisone injection and medications. The MRI report is documented in the 11/17/2014 progress note. Diagnosis included lumbago, arthropathy, unspecified, involving shoulder region; SLAP lesion shoulder, rotator cuff rupture and patellar tendinitis. The provider requested physical therapy for range of motion and strengthening 2 times a week for 6 weeks. A progress report dated December 29, 2014 indicates that the patient's knee symptoms persist despite physical therapy.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Additional physical therapy for the right knee, twice weekly for six weeks:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 337-338. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee & Leg Chapter, Physical Therapy.

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for additional physical therapy, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend a short course of active therapy with continuation of active therapies at home as an extension of the treatment process in order to maintain improvement levels. ODG has more specific criteria for the ongoing use of physical therapy. ODG recommends a trial of physical therapy. If the trial of physical therapy results in objective functional improvement, as well as ongoing objective treatment goals, then additional therapy may be considered. Within the documentation available for review, there is documentation of completion of prior PT sessions, but there is no documentation of specific objective functional improvement with the previous sessions and remaining deficits that cannot be addressed within the context of an independent home exercise program, yet are expected to improve with formal supervised therapy. Notes indicate that the patient's symptoms in the knee persist despite previous conservative treatment including physical therapy. In light of the above issues, the currently requested additional physical therapy is not medically necessary.