

Case Number:	CM15-0083284		
Date Assigned:	05/05/2015	Date of Injury:	11/08/2010
Decision Date:	07/15/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/16/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/30/2015

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: Texas, Florida, California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Preventive Medicine, Occupational 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 61 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 11/8/2010. The mechanism of injury is unknown. The injured worker was diagnosed as having severe degenerative joint disease of the left knee with arthroscopic surgery in 2012 and recent breast cancer. There is no record of a recent diagnostic study. Treatment to date has included surgery, physical therapy and medication management. In a progress note dated 3/2/2015, the injured worker complains of left knee pain. Treatment plan included a total knee arthroplasty. The treating physician is requesting purchase of 2 leg compression wraps, 21 days rental of a limb compression unit, 9 home physical therapy visits and 12 post-operative physical therapy visits.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

2 purchase of leg compression wrap: 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 Chapter, Compression garments.

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

Decision rationale: This claimant was injured 5 years ago. There were plans for a total knee arthroplasty. It is unknown if the surgery was certified. The current California web-based MTUS collection was reviewed in addressing this request. The guidelines are silent in regards to this request. Therefore, in accordance with state regulation, other evidence-based or mainstream peer-reviewed guidelines will be examined. The ODG notes in regards for compressive devices for deep venous thrombosis prevention: Recommend identifying subjects who are at a high risk of developing venous thrombosis and providing prophylactic measures such as consideration for anticoagulation therapy. Minor injuries in the leg are associated with greater risk of venous thrombosis. The relative risk for venous thrombosis is 3-fold greater following minor injury, especially if injury occurs in the 4 weeks prior to thrombosis, is located in the leg, and involves multiple injuries or rupture of muscle or ligament. Risk for venous thrombosis is higher in those with leg injury combined with family history of venous thrombosis (12-fold risk), Factor V Leiden mutation (50-fold risk), or Factor II 20210A mutation (9-fold risk). Knee arthroplasty is notorious for the development of blood clots, and dangerous and potentially lethal deep venous thrombosis, due to the induced tissue damage, and also the immobility post surgery. Also, rehabilitation is essential. Most often, the compression wraps for the device most often are purchased, as they are not recycled to other patients. However in review of the records, it does not appear that the arthroplasty was actually certified. As such, this requested care is not medically necessary. The non-certification would hold.

21 days rental of limb compression unit: 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 Chapter, Continuous-flow therapy.

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

Decision rationale: The current California web-based MTUS collection was reviewed in addressing this request. The guidelines are silent in regards to this request. Therefore, in accordance with state regulation, other evidence-based or mainstream peer-reviewed guidelines will be examined. The ODG notes in regards for compressive devices for deep venous thrombosis prevention: Recommend identifying subjects who are at a high risk of developing venous thrombosis and providing prophylactic measures such as consideration for anticoagulation therapy. Minor injuries in the leg are associated with greater risk of venous thrombosis. The relative risk for venous thrombosis is 3-fold greater following minor injury, especially if injury occurs in the 4 weeks prior to thrombosis, is located in the leg, and involves multiple injuries or rupture of muscle or ligament. Risk for venous thrombosis is higher in those with leg injury combined with family history of venous thrombosis (12-fold risk), Factor V Leiden mutation (50-fold risk), or Factor II 20210A mutation (9-fold risk). This patient lacks significant risk factors for deep venous thrombosis, such that I would not agree with the compression rental following the surgery. The request is not certified. Knee arthroplasty is notorious for the development of blood clots, and dangerous and potentially lethal deep venous thrombosis, due to the induced tissue damage, and also the immobility post surgery. Also, rehabilitation is essential. However in review of the records, it does not appear that the

arthroplasty was actually certified. Therefore, this request would not be medically necessary since the primary procedure was not medically necessary.

9 home physical therapy visits: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Home health services Page(s): 51.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Knee section, Physical Therapy.

Decision rationale: The ODG suggests about 24 post operative sessions for this condition. The initial must be home-based, due to patient immobility post knee replacement. Knee arthroplasty is notorious for the development of blood clots, and dangerous and potentially lethal deep venous thrombosis, due to the induced tissue damage, and also the immobility post surgery. However in review of the records, it does not appear that the arthroplasty was actually certified. As such, this requested care is not medically necessary. The non-certification would hold.

12 post-operative physical therapy visits: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Postsurgical Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG, Knee section, Physical Therapy.

Decision rationale: The ODG suggests about 24 post operative sessions for this condition. The initial must be home-based, due to patient immobility post knee replacement. Knee arthroplasty is notorious for the development of blood clots, and dangerous and potentially lethal deep venous thrombosis, due to the induced tissue damage, and also the immobility post surgery. However in review of the records, it does not appear that the arthroplasty was actually certified. As such, this requested care is not medically necessary. The non-certification would hold.