

Case Number:	CM13-0003779		
Date Assigned:	06/11/2014	Date of Injury:	01/14/2011
Decision Date:	09/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/24/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/26/2013

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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery, and is licensed to practice in Arizona. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This 58-year-old male sustained an injury to his left knee on 1/14/2011. On 3/26/2013, because of continuing symptoms, he underwent arthroscopic surgery, a subtotal medial meniscectomy, chondroplasty and synovectomy of the left knee. A progress note dated 4/25/2013 states the patient is improving but still has moderate achiness to the knee. He has a slight effusion and his range of motion is 0-85 degrees. The treating physician requests authorization for Synvisc injections.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

VISCOSUPPLEMENTATION INJECTION OF SERIES OF 3: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

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

Decision rationale: ODG Guidelines does recommend Visco supplement injections for patients with severe osteoarthritis. This patient is still postop from arthroscopic surgery of the knee. There is no indication in the records that the patient had severe osteoarthritis based on the

arthroscopic findings and x-rays. Therefore based on the lack of severe osteoarthritis of the knee, the medical necessity for using Visco supplementation injections has not been established. As such, the request is not medically necessary.