

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0129806		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	08/20/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/30/2000
<b>Decision Date:</b>	09/30/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/07/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/14/2014

### 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 Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. 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:

The injured worker is a 67 year old male who reported an injury on 11/30/2000 to his right knee. The mechanism of injury was falling down stairs. The clinical note dated 08/08/14 indicates the injured worker complaining of right knee pain. The injured worker was being recommended for a surgical intervention at that time. The injured worker's past medical history is significant for a subacromial decompression April of 2012 and again in September of 2012 as well as a carpal tunnel release in June of 2011 as well as in November of 2011. There is an indication the injured worker has been through physical therapy. However, it appears the focus of the therapy was towards the shoulders. The clinical note dated 04/11/14 indicates the injured worker complaining of right knee pain. There is an indication the initial injury occurred in the late 1980's when she stepped into a hole resulting in pain at several sites. The injured worker described a dull, radiating pain from the right knee to the right leg. The injured worker reported symptoms approximately fifty to sixty percent of the time. Xrays of the right knee are four years old.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Right total knee replacement.:** 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 and Leg Chapter, Knee joint replacement.

**Decision rationale:** The injured worker is a 67 year old male who reported an injury on 11/30/2000 to his right knee. The mechanism of injury was falling down stairs. The clinical note dated 08/08/14 indicates the injured worker complaining of right knee pain. The injured worker was being recommended for a surgical intervention at that time. The injured worker's past medical history is significant for a subacromial decompression April of 2012 and again in September of 2012 as well as a carpal tunnel release in June of 2011 as well as in November of 2011. There is an indication the injured worker has been through physical therapy. However, it appears the focus of the therapy was towards the shoulders. The clinical note dated 04/11/14 indicates the injured worker complaining of right knee pain. There is an indication the initial injury occurred in the late 1980's when she stepped into a hole resulting in pain at several sites. The injured worker described a dull, radiating pain from the right knee to the right leg. The injured worker reported symptoms approximately fifty to sixty percent of the time. Xrays of the right knee are four years old.