

Case Number:	CM14-0144146		
Date Assigned:	09/12/2014	Date of Injury:	09/01/2012
Decision Date:	11/13/2014	UR Denial Date:	08/14/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/05/2014

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 Orthopedic Surgery 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:

50-year-old female claimant with an industrial injury dated 09/01/12. MRI dated 06/05/14 of the left knee demonstrates pathology. Conservative treatments have included home exercise programs, physical therapy, and medications all with little improvement. Exam note 08/04/14 states the patient returns with left knee and left Achilles pain. Current medications include Norco and Motrin. Upon physical exam there was evidence of synovial swelling. The patient completed a positive McMurray's sign test. Treatment includes a left knee arthroscopy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Left knee arthroscopy, partial meniscectomy, chondroplasty, synovectomy, later patellar retinacular release: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 344.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 344-345. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Knee and Leg, Meniscectomy

Decision rationale: CAMTUS/ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints, pages 344-345, states regarding meniscus tears, "Arthroscopic partial meniscectomy usually has a high success rate

for cases in which there is clear evidence of a meniscus tear--symptoms other than simply pain (locking, popping, giving way, recurrent effusion)According to ODG Knee and Leg section, Meniscectomy section, states indications for arthroscopy and meniscectomy include attempt at physical therapy and subjective clinical findings, which correlate with objective examination and MRI. In this case the exam notes from 8/4/14 do not demonstrate evidence of adequate course of physical therapy or other conservative measures. In addition there is lack of evidence in the cited records of meniscal symptoms such as locking, popping, giving way or recurrent effusion. Therefore the determination is for non-certification.

Post-Op Physical Therapy 12 Sessions: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

Decision rationale: As the requested surgical procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary and appropriate.

Pre-op Studies: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

Decision rationale: As the requested surgical procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary and appropriate.