

Case Number:	CM14-0148172		
Date Assigned:	09/18/2014	Date of Injury:	01/11/2001
Decision Date:	10/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	09/11/2014

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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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:

According to the records made available for review, this is a 63-year-old female with a 1/11/01 date of injury, and arthroscopic surgery of the left knee (unspecified date). At the time (9/22/14) of Decision for 1 Synvisc-One Hyaluronate Injection To Both Knees, there is documentation of subjective (bilateral knee pain) and objective (tenderness to palpitation over the bilateral knee medial joint line, restricted range of motion on extension of the knee bilaterally, bilateral positive McMurray's sign, Slocum's signs, patella compression test, and crepitus) findings, imaging findings (X-rays of bilateral knees (1/31/14) report revealed degenerative joint disease noted with 1-2mm articular cartilage joint space of the medial compartment, narrowing and degenerative joint disease of the lateral compartment and the patellofemoral joint on the right; and moderately severe degenerative joint disease with 1mm joint space of the medial compartment, and degenerative changes of the lateral compartment and the patellofemoral joint on the left), current diagnoses (moderately severe degenerative joint disease in the both knees and status post left knee arthroscopy), and treatment to date (medications, cortisone injections, and previous Synvisc-One Hylan Visco supplementation injections (last injection given on 5/24/14)). Medical reports identify slight improvement following previous Synvisc-One Hylan Visco supplementation injection. There is no documentation of significant improvement in symptoms for 6 months or more.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

1 Synvisc-One Hyaluronate Injection To Both Knees: 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 & Leg (Acute & Chronic)

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 Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9792.20

Decision rationale: California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) does not address this issue. Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) identifies documentation of significant improvement in symptoms for 6 months or more, and symptoms recur, as criteria necessary to support the medical necessity of repeat series of hyaluronic acid injections. Within the medical information available for review, there is documentation of diagnoses of moderately severe degenerative joint disease in the both knees and status post left knee arthroscopy. However, despite documentation of slight improvement following previous Synvisc-One Hylan Visco supplementation injection, there is no documentation of significant improvement in symptoms for 6 months or more. Therefore, based on guidelines and a review of the evidence, the request for one Synvisc-One Hyaluronate Injection to both knees is not medically necessary.