

Case Number:	CM14-0170491		
Date Assigned:	10/20/2014	Date of Injury:	03/02/2010
Decision Date:	11/20/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/15/2014

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 New York. 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 patient is a 58-year-old male with a knee injury that occurred on March 2, 2000 and. Patient has chronic knee pain. The patient had right knee arthroscopy on June 20, 2013 for meniscal tear and chondromalacia. He continues to have left knee pain. But also has right knee pain. Orthovisc injections were discussed for the right knee. The medical records do not document exactly what imaging studies have been performed since the patient's date of injury on the bilateral knees. At issue is whether knee radiographs are medically necessary.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Plain radiographs bilateral knees A-P stand, quantity 1: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 341-342.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Other Medical Treatment Guideline or Medical Evidence: ODG knee pain chapter, MTUS knee pain chapter

Decision rationale: The medical records do not mention the clinical rationale for standing bilateral knee x-rays. ODG guidelines recommend standing AP films of the knee as part of an initial examination for nontraumatic knee pain. However, This patient has had previous

arthroscopic surgery and previous workup for knee pain since 2013. It is unclear exactly what imaging studies the patient had previously performed on the knees. The medical records do not document a reason for standing knee x-rays and possibly repeat the x-rays. The need for bilateral knee x-rays has not been established at this time over years status post injury and after surgery. ODG criteria not met.