

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0065550		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/03/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/27/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/18/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/02/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/13/2013

### 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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:  
 State(s) of Licensure: New York, New Hampshire, Washington  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

### 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 45 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 8/27/13. He subsequently reports continued right knee pain. Diagnoses include right and left knee strain, right foot strain, and rule out recurrent medial meniscal tear of the right knee. An office note refers to an MRI dated 11/6/13 where abnormalities of the lumbar spine were revealed. The UR decision dated 12/2/13 non-certified the Arthroscopic Debridement and Loose Body Removal of the Right Knee. The Arthroscopic Debridement and Loose Body Removal of the Right Knee procedure was denied based on ODG guidelines.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **ARTHROSCOPIC DEBRIEDMENT AND LOOSE BODY REMOVAL FROM RIGHT KNEE: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation official disability guidelines (ODG-TWC) knee & leg chapter (last updated 06/07/13), procedure summary- loose body removal surgery.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints  
Page(s): 343-350.

**Decision rationale:** 45 yo male with knee pain. MTUS guidelines for knee surgery not met. There is no documentation of complete meniscal tear on MRI. Physical exam does not show locking or instability. There is no documentation of an adequate trial and failure of conservative measures, There are no red flags for knee surgery such as fracture or tumor. MTUS criteria for knee surgery not met.

**PREOPERATIVE MEDICAL CLEARANCE:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints  
Page(s): 343-350.

**Decision rationale:** Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.

**HOT/COLD THERAPY UNIT WITH COMPRESSION FOR 7 DAYS:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints  
Page(s): 343-350.

**Decision rationale:** Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.

**12 SESSIONS OF POSTOPERATIVE PHYSICAL THERAPY:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints  
Page(s): 343-350.

**Decision rationale:** Since the primary procedure is not medically necessary, none of the associated services are medically necessary.