

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0001301		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/12/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/15/2007
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/13/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/30/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/05/2015

### 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: California, Hawaii

Certification(s)/Specialty: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

### 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 was a 50 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury, August 16, 2007. According to the progress note of December 17, 2014, the injured workers chief complaint was right knee pain. The injured worker was diagnosed with right knee posttraumatic osteoarthritis and compartment syndrome of the right knee. The injured worker had been treated with cortisone injections, and open reduction/internal fixation of the right knee. The primary treatment physician requested Euflexxa injection for pain in the right knee. On December 30, 2014, the UR denied authorization for a Euflexxa injection with ultrasound guidance 1 times a week for 3 weeks to the right knee. The denial was based on the ODG guidelines for Hyaluronic acid injections.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Euflexxa Injection with Ultrasound Guidance 1xWk x 3Wks Right Knee:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee & Leg, Euflexxa (hyauronale), Hyaluronic Acid Injections

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Online Knee: Hyaluronic acid injections

**Decision rationale:** The patient presents with pain affecting the right knee. The current request is for Euflexxa Injection with Ultrasound Guidance 1xWk x 3Wks Right Knee. The treating physician states, "He has not had any recent treatment. (14)" The patient was given anti-inflammatory medications and creams for pain relief. (16) The ODG guidelines state, "Patients experience significantly symptomatic osteoarthritis but have not responded adequately to recommended conservative nonpharmacologic (e.g., exercise) and pharmacologic treatments or are intolerant of these therapies (e.g., gastrointestinal problems related to anti-inflammatory medications), after at least 3 months; Documented symptomatic severe osteoarthritis of the knee, which may include the following: Bony enlargement; Bony tenderness; Crepitus (noisy, grating sound) on active motion; Less than 30 minutes of morning stiffness; No palpable warmth of synovium; Over 50 years of age; Generally performed without fluoroscopic or ultrasound guidance." In this case, the treating physician has documented that the patient has osteoarthritis but did not state/ did not give enough time to see if the patient has responded to any other therapies, did not document if the patient was intolerant to any therapies, and requested that the procedure be under ultrasound guidance which is not recommended in the ODG guidelines. The current request is not medically necessary and the recommendation is for denial.