

Case Number:	CM15-0004600		
Date Assigned:	02/09/2015	Date of Injury:	07/24/2011
Decision Date:	07/07/2015	UR Denial Date:	12/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	01/08/2015

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

Certification(s)/Specialty: Emergency Medicine

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 52-year-old female injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 07/24/2011. The diagnoses included meniscal degeneration and bursitis. The diagnostics included electromyographic studies/nerve conduction velocity studies, cervical magnetic resonance imaging. The injured worker had been treated with medications, knee arthroscopy, physical therapy and injections. On 12/12/2014, the provider reported intractable knee pain. A cane was being used to aid in mobility. Since the left knee injections, the symptoms had significantly increased with locking and giving way of both knees. The treatment plan included MRI to the left/right knees.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

MRI to the left knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints.

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

Decision rationale: The requested MRI to the left knee is not medically necessary. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004), Chapter 13, Knee Complaints, Special Studies and Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations, Page 343, note that imaging studies of the knee are recommended with documented exam evidence of ligament instability or internal derangement after failed therapy trials. The injured worker has intractable knee pain. A cane was being used to aid in mobility. Since the left knee injections, the symptoms had significantly increased with locking and giving way of both knees. There is insufficient documentation of an acute change in symptoms or exam findings since previous imaging studies. The criteria noted above not having been met, MRI to the left knee is not medically necessary.

MRI to the right knee: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints.

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

Decision rationale: The requested MRI to the right knee is not medically necessary. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM), 2nd Edition, (2004), Chapter 13, Knee Complaints, Special Studies and Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations, Page 343, note that imaging studies of the knee are recommended with documented exam evidence of ligament instability or internal derangement after failed therapy trials. The injured worker has intractable knee pain. A cane was being used to aid in mobility. Since the left knee injections, the symptoms had significantly increased with locking and giving way of both knees. There is insufficient documentation of an acute change in symptoms or exam findings since previous imaging studies. The criteria noted above not having been met, MRI to the right knee is not medically necessary.