

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0018065		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/06/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/26/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/25/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	01/21/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/30/2015

### 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: Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Pain Management

### 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 60 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury, August 26, 2009. The injury occurred when the injured worker was swimming to save a drowning student. The injured worker sustained a right knee injury. According to progress note of October 23, 2014, the injured workers chief complaint was right knee pain that increased with walking, sitting for long periods of time, walking on uneven ground. The injured worker was diagnosed with right knee osteoarthritis, end stage patellafemoral arthritis. The injured worker previously received the following treatments right knee surgery times 3, left knee surgery times 2, right shoulder, physical therapy, ice, total right knee replacement on December 22, 2014, laboratory studies, injections with cortisone, X-rays of the right knee on December 18, 2014, post-operative physical therapy. December 19, 2014, the primary treating physician requested authorization for cold therapy system with shipping and handling for postoperative care of a total right knee replacement completed on December 18, 2014. On January 21, 2015, the UR denied authorization for cold therapy system with shipping and handling. The denial was based on the MTUS/ACOEM and ODG guidelines.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Cold therapy system:** 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 and Leg, Continuous Flow Cryotherapy

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Knee Chapter, Continuous-flow cryotherapy

**Decision rationale:** Regarding the request for cold therapy system, California MTUS does not address the issue. ODG supports the use of continuous-flow cryotherapy for up to 7 days after knee surgery. Within the documentation available for review, the patient had a pending knee surgery. While up of a cold therapy system for up to 7 days would be appropriate, an open-ended request or a request for purchase is not supported and, unfortunately, there is no provision for modification of the current request. In light of the above issues, the currently requested cold therapy system is not medically necessary.

**Shipping and Handling:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Knee Chapter, Continuous-flow cryotherapy

**Decision rationale:** As the cold therapy system is not medically necessary, the shipping and handling is also not medically necessary.