

Case Number:	CM15-0111585		
Date Assigned:	06/18/2015	Date of Injury:	12/09/2011
Decision Date:	07/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/26/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/09/2015

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: 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:

The injured worker is a 64 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/9/11. The injured worker has complaints of right knee pain. The documentation noted on 4/22/14 the injured worker had persistent severe right knee edema with mild erythema, no effusion. Range of motion was 5-90 with moderate to severe crepitus, grimacing at endpoints and X-rays reveals mild to moderate medial and lateral compartment chondromalacia. The diagnoses have included left medial meniscus tear and carpal tunnel syndrome. Treatment to date has included right partial meniscectomy on 5/24/13; right total knee arthroplasty on 4/7/14; Naproxen; Norco and Prilosec. Exam note 5/15/15 demonstrates right knee pain with range of motion to 90 degrees. The request was for right revision total knee arthroplasty and preoperative medical clearance and testing.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Right revision total knee Arthroplasty: 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), Knee replacement.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee arthroplasty.

Decision rationale: CA MTUS/ACOEM is silent on the issue of total knee replacement. According to the Official Disability Guidelines regarding Knee arthroplasty, criteria for knee joint replacement includes conservative care with subjective findings including limited range of motion less than 90 degrees. In addition the patient should have a BMI of less than 35 and be older than 50 years of age. The clinical information submitted demonstrates insufficient evidence to support a revision knee arthroplasty in this patient. There is no documentation from the exam notes from 5/15/15 of infection, loosening or other evidence of hardware failure. There are no records in the chart documenting when physical therapy began or how many visits were attempted. There is no formal workup for septic versus aseptic loosening. Therefore the guideline criteria have not been met and the request is not medically necessary.

Preoperative medical clearance and testing: 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), Knee & Leg-Revision total knee arthroplasty.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Low Back, Preoperative testing.

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