

Case Number:	CM15-0114255		
Date Assigned:	06/22/2015	Date of Injury:	10/25/2012
Decision Date:	07/23/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/15/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/12/2015

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

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 52 year old male sustained an industrial injury to the back and left knee on 10/25/12. Previous treatment included physical therapy, acupuncture, epidural steroid injections and medications. In a PR-2 dated 5/6/15, the injured worker complained of persistent severe bilateral knee pain. The injured worker had opted to proceed with left total knee replacement. Physical exam was remarkable for both knees with medial joint line tenderness, pain with hyperflexion, patellofemoral crepitus and mildly positive tension signs on the left. Bilateral knee x-rays showed severe osteoarthritis bilaterally. Current diagnoses included multilevel lumbar spine degenerative disc disease, left lower extremity radiculopathy, left knee osteoarthritis and diabetes mellitus. The physician noted that the injured worker's vitamin D level was low. With respect to the injured worker's hemostasis, the injured worker was placed on vitamin B12 supplementation including folic acid, B12 and B6. The physician also requested a hematological consultation.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Hematological Consultation: Overturned

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition, 2004, Chapter 7, Independent Medical Examinations and Consultations, page 127.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition (2004), Independent medical examination and consultations. Ch: 7 page 127.

Decision rationale: The patient presents with pain in both knees. The request is for Hematological Consultation. The request for authorization is dated 05/11/15. The patient is status-post left knee arthroscopy, 06/17/13. Status-post left total knee replacement, 05/19/15. X-ray of the left knee, date unspecified, shows severe bilateral knee osteoarthritis. MRI of the left knee, 11/30/12, shows tricompartmental osteoarthritis with bone-on-bone articulation in the medial compartment. Physical examination reveals medial joint line tenderness to both knees painful range of motion with crepitus. Mildly positive tension signs on the left side. Patient had 8 visits of physical therapy. With respect to his hemostasis, he is placed on vitamin B12 supplementation including folic acid, B12 and B6. Per progress report dated 12/18/14, the patient is retired. ACOEM Practice Guidelines, 2nd Edition (2004), page 127 has the following: The occupational health practitioner may refer to other specialists if a diagnosis is uncertain or extremely complex, when psychosocial factors are present, or when the plan or course of care may benefit from additional expertise. Treater does not discuss the request. In this case, the patient is taking vitamin B12 supplementation including folic acid, B12 and B6 for his hemostasis. It would appear that the current treater feels uncomfortable with the patient's medical issues and has requested a Hematological Consultation. Given the patient's condition, the request for a consultation appears reasonable. Therefore, the request is medically necessary.