

Case Number:	CM15-0171496		
Date Assigned:	09/11/2015	Date of Injury:	09/25/2012
Decision Date:	10/13/2015	UR Denial Date:	08/18/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/31/2015

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: Arizona, California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

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 65 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 9-25-12. Progress report dated 8-6-15 reports right knee is not getting any better. The knee gives out and she has fallen several times. She states her condition is getting worse over time. She has instability and popping in the knee. Diagnoses include: knee pain, referable symptoms of lower leg joint, knee joint replacement and knee injury instability. Plan of care includes: request scanogram hip to ankle alignment films, dynamic fluoroscopy to evaluate instability. Work status: remain off work for 3 months.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

One hip to ankle scanogram alignment film: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Orthopedic Imaging: A Practical Approach, Adam Greenspan (2014)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ajnABAAAQBAJ&pg=PT80&lpg=PT80&dq=scanogram+knee+instability&sou>.

MAXIMUS guideline: The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2008 Dec; 466(12): 2910-2922. Published online 2008 Oct 4. doi: 10.1007/s11999-008-0524-9 PMID: PMC2628227 Methods for Assessing Leg Length Discrepancy Sanjeev Sabharwal, MD corresponding author and Ajay Kumar, MD.

Decision rationale: According to the referenced literature, scanogram is appropriate in those who have abnormal findings in leg length discrepancy on exam. In this case there is mention of knee instability, but the exam does not note abnormalities in long length to be further evaluated by a scanogram. As a result, the request is not medically necessary.