

Case Number:	CM15-0068840		
Date Assigned:	04/16/2015	Date of Injury:	05/19/2009
Decision Date:	06/11/2015	UR Denial Date:	03/25/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/10/2015

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: Internal 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 injured worker (IW) is a 53 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on 05/19/2009. She reported pain in both knees and in the back. The injured worker was diagnosed with chronic unspecified internal derangement of the knees bilaterally; discogenic lumbar condition with radicular component; discogenic cervical condition with radicular component; anxiety, depression, sleep disorder, sexual dysfunction as well as headaches, (due to chronic pain and inactivity), addressed by other specialties. Treatment to date has included medications, injections, tests, x-rays and referrals. Currently, the injured worker complains of knee pain, and back pain. The treatment plan includes a request for approval of Hyalagan injections x5 for bilateral knees.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Hyalagan injections x5 for bilateral knees: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee and Leg Chapter, Hyalagan/ hyaluronic acid injections.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 339. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ACOEM 3rd Edition (2011) Knee disorders, <http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=36632>.

Decision rationale: Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) addresses injections of the knee. American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) 2nd Edition (2004) Chapter 13 Knee Complaints (Page 339) indicates that invasive techniques are not routinely indicated. ACOEM 3rd Edition (2011) does not recommend Hyaluronic acid injections for knee disorders. The primary treating physician's progress report dated 2/17/15 documented that in the past, the patient had Hyalgan injections, 1 series of each on each knee with some relief. Physical examination was documented. Tenderness along the joint line with weakness to resisted function is noted. The knees have 180 degrees of extension, 115 degrees of flexion on the right and 110 degrees on the left. Ankle dorsiflexion is 15 degrees and plantar flexion is 40 degrees. Tenderness along the joint line is noted, especially laterally. Tenderness along the patella, medial and lateral is noted. He has a positive inhibition test and positive compression test. Hyalgan injections to the knees were requested. The 2/17/15 progress report does not document the severity of the patient's current knee condition. The primary treating physician's progress report dated 2/17/15 documented that in the past, the patient had Hyalgan injections, 1 series of each on each knee with some relief. The dates of the past Hyalgan injections were not documented. The magnitude and duration of the relief were not specified. Therefore, the request for repeat Hyalgan injections to the knees is not supported. ACOEM 3rd Edition does not recommend Hyaluronic acid injections for knee disorders. Therefore, the request for Hyalgan injections is not medically necessary.