

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0077031		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/28/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/12/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/26/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/10/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/22/2015

### 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: North Carolina  
 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 57 year old male who sustained an industrial injury on 11/12/11. The injured worker reported symptoms in the back and knees. The injured worker was diagnosed as having internal derangement of the left knee. Treatments to date have included diagnostics, oral pain medication; status post left knee arthroscopy, physical therapy, injections, activity modification, hinged brace, muscle relaxant, and custom orthotics. Currently, the injured worker complains of back and bilateral knee pain. The plan of care was for diagnostics and a follow up appointment at a later date.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Repeat MRI left knee:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints  
 Page(s): 343-347.

**Decision rationale:** The ACOEM chapter on knee complaints, states that MRI is indicated to determine the extent of ACL tear preoperatively. Reliance only on imaging studies to evaluate the source of knee symptoms may carry a significant risk of diagnostic confusion (false-positive test results) because of the possibility of identifying a problem that was present before symptoms began, and therefore has no temporal association with the current symptoms. Even so, remember that while experienced examiners usually can diagnose an ACL tear in the non-acute stage based on history and physical examination, these injuries are commonly missed or over diagnosed by inexperienced examiners, making MRIs valuable in such cases. Criteria per the ACOEM for ordering an MRI of the knee in the provided documentation for review have not been met. Therefore the request is not medically necessary.