MAXIMUS Federal Services

Case Number:	CM15-0090551		
Date Assigned:	05/14/2015	Date of Injury:	11/20/2013
Decision Date:	06/29/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/30/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/11/2015

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: Pennsylvania, Ohio, 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:

The injured worker is a 46 year old female who sustained a work related injury November 20, 2013. Past history included s/p arthroscopic repair, left knee 8/5/2014 and 5th Supartz injection administered 2/25/2015. According to a primary treating physician's progress report, dated April 8, 2015, the injured worker presented for follow-up of her left knee. She reports no change in progress but has aching, stiffness and soreness, rated 5/10. X-rays were taken of the left knee (three views) and left tibia (two views) and show no increase of osteoarthritis. Diagnoses are; cpt code 836/dislocation of knee and cpt code 719.46/pain in joint, lower leg. Treatment plan included medication, urine toxicology screen, and at issue, a request for additional physical therapy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Additional physical therapy (3x4): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine Page(s): 98-99.

Decision rationale: MTUS encourages physical therapy with an emphasis on active forms of treatment and patient education. This guideline recommends transition from supervised therapy to active independent home rehabilitation. Given the timeline of this injury and past treatment, the patient would be anticipated to have previously transitioned to such an independent home rehabilitation program. The records do not provide a rationale at this time for additional supervised rather than independent rehabilitation. This request is not medically necessary.