

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0093132		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	05/19/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	03/08/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/18/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	04/21/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	05/14/2015

### 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, Indiana, Oregon  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

### 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 70-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 3/8/13. The injured worker has complaints of right knee pain. The documentation noted that the range of motion in the knees are right is 120 on the right and 130 on the left and 0 extension on the left and right. The documentation noted that the injured worker has persistent pain, popping, cracking and instability in the right knee. The diagnoses have included right knee complex tear of the lateral meniscus; right knee moderate lateral subluxation of the patella; right knee osteoarthritis; right femur fracture, healed and right knee internal derangement. Treatment to date has included magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the right knee on 2/20/15 showed complex tear of the anterior horn of the lateral meniscus, early osteoarthritis lateral aspect of the tibiofemoral joint, joint effusion and popliteal cyst and osteoarthritis at the patellofemoral joint with moderate lateral subluxation of the patella. The request was for right knee arthroscopy with menisectomy.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Right Knee Arthroscopy with Menisectomy: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints Page(s): 344-5. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation ODG Indications for Surgery.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) knee.

**Decision rationale:** CAMTUS/ACOEM Chapter 13 Knee Complaints, pages 344-345, states regarding meniscus tears, "Arthroscopic partial meniscectomy usually has a high success rate for cases in which there is clear evidence of a meniscus tear symptoms other than simply pain (locking, popping, giving way, recurrent effusion); clear signs of a bucket handle tear on examination (tenderness over the suspected tear but not over the entire joint line, and perhaps lack of full passive flexion); and consistent findings on MRI." In this case, the MRI from 2/20/15 demonstrates osteoarthritis of the knee without clear evidence of meniscus tear. The ACOEM guidelines state that, "Arthroscopy and meniscus surgery may not be equally beneficial for those patients who are exhibiting signs of degenerative changes." According to ODG, Knee and Leg Chapter, Arthroscopic Surgery for osteoarthritis, "Not recommended. Arthroscopic lavage and debridement in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee is no better than placebo surgery, and arthroscopic surgery provides no additional benefit compared to optimized physical and medical therapy." As the patient has significant osteoarthritis, the request is not medically necessary.