

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0062407		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	12/30/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/14/2005
<b>Decision Date:</b>	04/03/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/03/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/06/2013

### HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Interventional Spine and is licensed to practice in California. 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 physician 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This case involves a 57-year-old male with a 9/14/05 industrial injury claim. According to the 9/25/13 report from [REDACTED], the patient presents with 8/10 low back pain, worse with walking, sitting or standing, and he has right knee pain that remains the same as last time. The diagnoses included status post L5/S1 fusion 3/16/11, status post left knee scope 9/20/10, right knee patellofemoral arthroplasty (PFA); stress, anxiety and depression. He requests authorization for three (3) Synvisc injections with ultrasound guidance. On 12/3/13, the utilization review denied a request for ultrasound guided Synvisc injections for the right knee based on the 9/25/13 report from [REDACTED], and the 11/5/13 report from [REDACTED]. The 11/5/13 report from [REDACTED] was not provided for this Independent Medical Review (IMR).

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Request for three (3) Synvisc injections 6ml/48mg to the right knee under ultrasound guidance between 11/26/2013 and 1/10/2014: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines, Knee and Leg Chapter, Hyaluronic acid injections, Online Version

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), ODG-TWC guidelines, Knee chapter for Hyaluronic acid injections (<http://www.odg-twc.com/odgtwc/knee.htm#Hyaluronicacidinjections>)

**Decision rationale:** Based on the available information, the patient presents with right knee and low back pain. He has the diagnosis of right knee patellofemoral arthroplasty (PFA). The Official Disability Guidelines for Synvisc specifically indicate, "While osteoarthritis of the knee is a recommended indication, there is insufficient evidence for other conditions, including patellofemoral arthritis". Also the guidelines indicate that these are done without the requested ultrasound guidance. The request as written for ultrasound guided Synvisc injections times three for patellofemoral arthritis is not in accordance with the guidelines.