



## 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 Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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.

### DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

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

The patient is a 51-year-old female who underwent left total knee replacement with revision on 07/31/2012. The patient was treated postsurgically with physical therapy and medications. The patient underwent left knee manipulation under anesthesia, arthroscopy and loose body removal, and synovectomy in 10/2013. This was followed by a course of physical therapy. In 12/2013, the patient developed an infection of the left leg at the site of the total knee arthroplasty. The patient's treatment plan included left knee removal of the hardware and insertion of a spacer and a 1 month stay in a skilled nursing facility.

### IMR DECISION(S) AND RATIONALE(S)

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

#### **1. Urgent skilled nursing facility x 1 month stay is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

The Claims Administrator based its decision on the ODG Knee & Leg, Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) care.

The Physician Reviewer found that no section of the MTUS was applicable. Per the Strength of Evidence hierarchy established by the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, the Physician Reviewer based his/her decision on the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Knee and Leg, Skilled Nursing Facility Length of Stay.

The Physician Reviewer's decision rationale:

The clinical documentation submitted for review does indicate the patient developed an infection of implanted hardware in the knee. California Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule does not address skilled nursing facility length of stay. Official Disability Guidelines recommend up to 10 to 18 days in a skilled nursing facility or 6 to 12 days in an inpatient rehabilitation facility as

an option depending on the functional limitations and need for skilled nursing. The clinical documentation submitted for review does support the patient was scheduled to have hardware removed and a spacer implanted while the patient's infection resolved. However, there were no recent clinical examination findings to support the patient developed an infection. Therefore, the need for ongoing skilled nursing is not supported. Additionally, the request is for a 30 day length of stay. Official Disability Guidelines recommend 10 to 18 days as an appropriate length of time for a skilled nursing facility inpatient admission. The clinical documentation did not include any support to exceed guideline recommendations. As such, the requested urgent skilled nursing facility x1 month stay is not medically necessary or appropriate.

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]