MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.
Independent Medical Review
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MAXIMUS Federal Services

Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 11/22/2013

Employee:	
Claim Number:	
Date of UR Decision:	8/12/2013
Date of Injury:	3/29/2012
IMR Application Received:	8/15/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0012027

1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **acupuncture one time per week for six weeks for the treatment of left shoulder myofascial symptoms is medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/15/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/12/2103. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 9/30/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for **acupuncture one time per week for six weeks for the treatment of left shoulder myofascial symptoms is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:
The independent Medical Doctor who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in acupuncture 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 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:
This is a 52 year old female patient who injured the left shoulder in a work related accident on March 29, 2012. The diagnosis is status-post two shoulder arthroscopic surgeries. Regardless of previous treatments modalities (physical therapy, oral medication, work modification, etc.) the patient continued to be symptomatic. Therefore, an acupuncture trial was recommended by the primary treating physician on July 24, 2013. On August 12, 2013, this request was modified by the UR reviewer to certify four sessions based on Official Disability Guidelines.

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

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

1) **Regarding the request for acupuncture one time per week for six weeks for the treatment of left shoulder myofascial symptoms:**

   <u>The Medical Treatment Guidelines Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision</u>
   The Claims Administrator based its decision on the Official Disability Guidelines, Shoulder, Acupuncture Guidelines, which are not a part of MTUS.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guidelines (2009), which are a part of MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:
According to the records submitted for review, it does not appear that the employee has yet undergone a course of acupuncture. As the employee has continued significantly symptomatic despite other treatment modalities, an acupuncture trial for pain management would be reasonable and supported for medical necessity. The guidelines note that time to produce functional improvement is three to six treatments. **The request for acupuncture one time per week for six weeks for the treatment of left shoulder myofascial symptoms is medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:
The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/dso

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.