

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0008774		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/08/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	01/06/2012
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/22/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/29/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/08/2013

### 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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Chiropractic Care, has a subspecialty 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 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:

The patient is a 69 year old female with a date of injury of 1/06/2012. According to the submitted documents, the patient has had 25 acupuncture visits to date. According to progress report dated 7/02/2013, the patient complained of neck, bilateral shoulder, and low back pain. She reported that acupuncture has been helpful. Objective findings include right shoulder abduction at 80 degrees and flexion at 90 degrees. Left shoulder abduction was at 80 degrees and flexion at 90 degrees.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture 2 times per week for 6 weeks for the cervical spine:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

**Decision rationale:** The Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guidelines recommend acupuncture for pain. Acupuncture may be extended after a trial of 3-6 acupuncture sessions if there is documentation of functional improvement. The patient has completed 25 acupuncture sessions thus far and has reported that acupuncture was helpful. However, there was no documentation in

the medical records of objective functional improvement. Therefore, additional acupuncture 2 times a week for 6 weeks is not medically necessary.