

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0024750		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	11/20/2013	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/13/2003
<b>Decision Date:</b>	01/29/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/30/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/16/2013

### 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 a Chiropractor and Acupuncturist 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.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

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

Claimant is 53 year old male who was involved in a work related injury on 8/13/2013. His primary diagnoses are low back pain and sciatica. He has pain in the low back, buttocks, and pain down to the posterior thighs. He has limited range of motion and a positive SLR test. He has had trigger point injections, medications, and massage. He has had six acupuncture visits between August and October 2013. He had another six visits authorized in November 2013. There is no documentation of completion of the six visits or of functional improvement from most recently authorized treatment.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture times 2, low back:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** According to evidenced based guidelines, further acupuncture visits after an initial trial are medically necessary based on documented functional improvement. "Functional improvement" means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions. The claimant has had 12 acupuncture visits approved in the last six months and there is no documentation of the recently authorized block of six visits on 11/19/2013. Further acupuncture sessions may be necessary if there is documented functional

improvement from those visits. However, since there is no documentation of completion or of functional improvement, further acupuncture at this time is not medically necessary