

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0025187		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	06/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	10/12/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	07/11/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	08/08/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/20/2013

### 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 Anesthesiology, has a subspecialty in Pain Medicine 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 injured worker is a 46-year-old female who sustained an injury to her when she collided with a child and struck her right shoulder on a locker. The injured worker emerged with right shoulder and arm pain. She was referred to an occupational clinic for increasing levels of right shoulder pain and swelling with additional pain in the neck. She was placed on modified duty. Electrodiagnostic study (EMG/NCV) of the bilateral upper extremities was within normal limits without evidence of peripheral nerve entrapment or radiculopathy. The MRI scan of the left shoulder indicated rotator cuff tendinitis with downsloping acromion present. Treatment to date has included acupuncture therapy and medications that reportedly provided 50% relief for an unspecified duration.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**CONTINUE ACUPUNCTURE (8 VISITS):** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** The request for continuing acupuncture eight visits two times a week for four weeks is not medically necessary. The CAMTUS recommends 1-3 visits per week times one

to two months. Acupuncture treatments may be extended if there is documentation of significant functional improvement. There was no indication of the amount of acupuncture treatments the injured worker has received to date. There was no information provided that would indicate the injured worker is actively participating in a home exercise program. Given the clinical documentation submitted for review, medical necessity of the request for continuing acupuncture eight visits two times a week for four weeks has not been established.

**URINE SCREEN:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Drug Testing.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain chapter.

**Decision rationale:** The request for urine screen is not medically necessary. The previous request was denied on the basis that there was no discussion or clinical indication that would warrant routine urine drug screening. The injured worker had not demonstrated any high risk or illicit behavior. Previous screens did not indicate the injured worker was not taking her prescription medications as prescribed. There was no additional significant objective clinical information provided that would support the need for routine drug screens. Given the clinical documentation submitted for review, medical necessity of the request for urine screen has not been established.