

Case Number:	CM13-0033779		
Date Assigned:	03/03/2014	Date of Injury:	04/01/2013
Decision Date:	04/15/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/10/2013

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 licensed in Chiropractic & 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:

Claimant is a 38 year old female who sustained a work related injury on 4/1/13. Prior treatment includes 18-24 chiropractic treatments, physical therapy, trigger point injections and oral medication. The patient has low back pain. Prolonged standing, walking, and sitting increase her pain. Diagnosis include lumbar strain with myofascial pain. The patient is on modified duty. According to an AME dated 1/15/2014, she has reached maximal medical improvement. No prior acupuncture is noted.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

TEN (10) ACUPUNCTURE VISITS FOR LUMBAR SPINE: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints, Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: According to the Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines, an initial trial of acupuncture consists of six visits. A request for ten visits exceeds the recommended Acupuncture treatment guidelines. The request for ten acupuncture visits is not medically necessary and appropriate.