

Case Number:	CM13-0037342		
Date Assigned:	12/13/2013	Date of Injury:	05/07/2013
Decision Date:	02/06/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/23/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a physician reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Chiropractic and 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 physician 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 a 47 year old male who was involved in a work related injury on 5/6/2013. Claimant injured his neck and has had constant pain in his neck and low back. The claimant was diagnosed with lumbago, displacement of lumbar disc, facet joint syndrome, myalgia, headache and annular tear. He also has bilateral shoulder pain and mid back pain. Prior treatment had been oral medications and injections. According to a prior non-certification, there was a prior approval of 6 acupuncture sessions. There is no documentation of completion of the visits or of functional improvement related to the completion of the visits.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture: 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. However, the provider failed to document the completion of prior certified acupuncture and any functional improvement associated with his acupuncture visits. Therefore further acupuncture is not medically necessary.

