

Case Number:	CM13-0043337		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	03/09/2001
Decision Date:	02/13/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/09/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	10/23/2013

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 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:

This is a 65 y/o female patient with chronic pain complains. Diagnosis: complete rupture of rotator cuff, adhesive capsulitis of shoulder, status post cervical fusion, cervical radiculitis, and carpal tunnel, amongst others. Previous treatments included: multiple surgeries, oral medication, physical therapy, self care and work modifications amongst others. As the patient continued significantly symptomatic, with reduced function-ADLs, a request for an acupuncture trial 2x4 was made on 09-30-13 by the PTP.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture 2 times a week for 4 weeks: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Based on the records reviewed, as the patient continued symptomatic with reduced ADLs, an acupuncture trial for pain management and function improvement was reasonable and supported by the MTUS. The MTUS note that the number of acupuncture sessions to produce functional improvement is 3-6 treatments. The eight sessions requested by

the PTP exceeded the guidelines without extraordinary circumstance reported, therefore not supported for medical necessity.