

Case Number:	CM13-0049454		
Date Assigned:	02/20/2014	Date of Injury:	06/09/2009
Decision Date:	06/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	09/30/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/08/2013

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 Occupational 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:

This is a 47 year old male who has reported low back pain after an injury on June 9, 2009. The treatment has included chiropractic care, lumbar support braces, medications, and injections. He has not had a prior course of acupuncture. On September 9, 2013 the primary treating physician, a chiropractor, prescribed 8 visits of acupuncture. On September 30, 2013, Utilization Review modified a prescription for 8 acupuncture visits, certifying 6 visits as per the recommendations of the California MTUS Guideline.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ACUPUNCTURE 2XWK X 4WKS FOR THE LOW BACK: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation MTUS: ACUPUNCTURE MEDICAL TREATMENT GUIDELINES, ,

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The prescription for acupuncture is evaluated in light of the California MTUS Guideline recommendations for acupuncture. An initial course of acupuncture is 3-6 visits per the California MTUS Guideline. The current prescription is for 8 visits, which exceeds the quantity recommended in the California MTUS Guideline. An initial course of acupuncture

for 8 visits is not medically necessary based on a prescription which exceeds the quantity recommended in the California MTUS Guideline. The request is not medically necessary.