

Case Number:	CM13-0049506		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	04/13/2012
Decision Date:	02/25/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/11/2013
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 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 53 year old male patient with pain complains of right knee pain (VAS "6/10 with movements, no significant pain at rest"). Previous treatments included: Hyalgan injections ("some improvement"), oral medication, physical therapy, and work modifications amongst others. As the patient continued symptomatic, a request for acupuncture 2x4 for pain relief was made on 09-25-13 by the primary treating physician. The requested care was modified on 10-11-13 by the UR reviewer to approve four sessions and non-certifying four sessions. The reviewer rationale was "acupuncture x8 exceeds the guidelines; a trial of four sessions is supported by the MTUS as medically and necessary".

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Initial acupuncture for the right knee (8 sessions): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Based on the records reviewed, as the patient continued symptomatic 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. As the requested 8 sessions of acupuncture exceeded the guidelines without any extraordinary circumstances documented to support such care, it is not supported as medically and necessary.