

Case Number:	CM13-0051167		
Date Assigned:	12/27/2013	Date of Injury:	05/11/2010
Decision Date:	04/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/08/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/04/2013

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 Chiropractic has a subspecialty 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:

The patient is a 59 year old male with a date of injury of 5/11/2010. According to the progress report dated 9/20/2013, the patient was treated for shoulder pain. Objective findings consisted of decrease range of motion. Shoulder elevation to about 120 degrees. The patient was able to abduct to 60 degrees, externally rotates to 40 degrees, and internally rotate to 45 degrees. The patient is believed to have early arthritis.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ACUPUNCTURE 3XWK X4WKS RIGHT SHOULDER: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guideline recommends acupuncture for pain. It states that acupuncture may be extended if there is documentation of functional improvement. According to the progress report dated 12/30/2013, the patient had 4 acupuncture sessions and reported that it was helpful. However, there was no documentation of functional improvement with acupuncture in the submitted documents. Based on the lack of functional

improvement from acupuncture, additional acupuncture 3 times a week for 4 weeks is not medically necessary at this time.