

Case Number:	CM13-0061326		
Date Assigned:	03/31/2014	Date of Injury:	10/23/2007
Decision Date:	08/11/2014	UR Denial Date:	11/27/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/05/2013

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 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management 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 patient with a date of injury of 10/23/07. A utilization review determination dated 11/27/13 recommends non-certification of acupuncture and trigger point injection (TPI). 12/27/13 medical report identifies that patient was denied further acupuncture and TPI did not seem to help significantly. Patient does yoga to stay limber. The rest of the findings are mostly illegible.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ADDITIONAL ACUPUNCTURE 2 TIMES A WEEK FOR 3 WEEKS QTY: 6: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for additional acupuncture, California MTUS does support the use of acupuncture for chronic pain, with additional use supported when there is functional improvement documented, which is defined as: either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions and a reduction in the dependency on continued medical treatment". A trial of up to 6 sessions is recommended, with up to 24 total sessions supported when there is ongoing evidence of functional

improvement. Within the documentation available for review, there is no documentation of functional improvement as defined above from the previous acupuncture trial. In the absence of such documentation, the currently requested additional acupuncture is not medically necessary.

INJECTION TRIGGER POINT UNDER ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE, BILATERAL SCAPULA QTY: 2: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines CRITERIA FOR TRIGGER POINT INJECTIONS.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Trigger Point Injections Page(s): 122.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for trigger point injections, Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines support the use of trigger point injections after 3 months of conservative treatment provided trigger points are present on physical examination with evidence upon palpation of a twitch response as well as referred pain. Within the documentation available for review, there are no physical examination findings consistent with trigger points including a twitch response as well as referred pain upon palpation. In the absence of such documentation, the requested trigger point injections are not medically necessary.