

Case Number:	CM13-0062658		
Date Assigned:	12/30/2013	Date of Injury:	10/21/2011
Decision Date:	03/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/04/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/06/2013

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to a expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Licensed in Chiropractic Medicine, 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 67-year-old with a date of injury of 10/21/2011. According to the progress report dated 11/18/2013, the patient complained of ongoing fatigue and decreased stamina without night sweats, decreased appetite, weight loss, or fevers. The patient was unable to exercise regularly due to fatigue and generalized myalgia. Objective findings include no tenderness or erythema or effusion noted. The patient's joints were normal shape and contour. The patient's muscle strength, tone, and range of motions were normal. The patient was diagnosed with myalgia and myositis, unspecified.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Six additional sessions of acupuncture for fatigue and myalgia: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The Expert Reviewer's decision rationale: The Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guidelines state that acupuncture may be extended if there is documentation of functional improvement. The patient has had 12 acupuncture sessions. The submitted records revealed that the patient had completed her last acupuncture session on 7/13/13. The

acupuncturist reported that the patient received the same treatment and was 40% better. According to the discharge/discontinuation summary dated 7/13/2013, the patient's pain rating at the initial acupuncture treatment was 3/10 and at discharge 2/10. The patients work status and gross range of motion remained the same at initial time of treatment and at discharge. In addition, the patients activities of daily living remained the same from reports dated 7/18/2013 and 4/10/2013 per progress report dated 8/27/2013. There was no documentation of objective functional improvement following acupuncture treatments. The request for six additional sessions of acupuncture for fatigue and myalgia is not medically necessary or appropriate.