

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0068327		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/07/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	08/31/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/12/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/27/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/19/2013

### 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 Acupuncture, has a subspecialty in Addiction Detoxification and is licensed to practice in New York. 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 applicant is a female producer employed by [REDACTED] and while in [REDACTED], a group of young men attacked and beat her in the face, neck, and back, causing multiple injuries to all aforementioned areas and continues to have persistent swelling in the neck and face. Since the incident in August 2013, she underwent MRI's of the brain. X-rays of the lumbar and cervical spine with positive results, chiropractic care, physical therapy, acupuncture, deep tissue massage, pain, anti-anxiety and anti-inflammatory medication, lumbar supports, and psychotherapy.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**ACUPUNCTURE FOR THE NECK AND LOW BACK; TWELVE 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 MTUS guidelines, section 9792.24, acupuncture can promote relaxation in anxious patients; therefore, the administrator certified a modified course of six acupuncture sessions instead of the twelve. Evidently, no documentation is provided including the number of acupuncture treatments she has received already and it is unclear if the applicant has improved functionally or if she has had real benefit to her condition from such treatments.

Based on MTUS guidelines, section 9792.24, acupuncture can be approved up to two months. Therefore, the original request of twelve sessions of acupuncture is not medically necessary.