

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0004504		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	02/19/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/18/1998
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/24/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/30/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/13/2014

### 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 and is licensed to practice in Texas. 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 injured worker is a 53 year old female whose date of injury is 07/18/1998. On this date a metal barricade slammed on the injured worker's left 3rd, 4th and 5th fingers and lacerated the 4th finger. The injured worker underwent left ring finger digital nerve repair on 07/31/1998. Note dated 10/02/13 indicates that postoperative left ring finger pain persisted. Pain level is now low to moderate depending on activity. The finger is still tender to gentle touch. The injured worker experiences paresthesias and pain in her left upper limb. Diagnoses are pain/paresthesias; left 3rd phalange stiffness; and left upper limb chronic pain. Note dated 01/30/14 indicates that the injured worker is able to wiggle and move the fingers of the left hand. Grip strength on the left is 14 pounds, and the right is 24 pounds.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR THE LEFT HAND, FINGERS, AND UPPER LIMB, QTY: 6.00:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Physical Medicine..

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines  
MANUAL THERAPY AND MANIPULATION Page(s): 58-60.

**Decision rationale:** Based on the clinical information provided, the request for physical therapy for the left hand, fingers and upper limb, qty 6 is not recommended as medically necessary. The injured worker sustained injuries in 1998; however, there is no comprehensive assessment of treatment completed to date or the injured worker's response thereto submitted for review. The injured worker's compliance with an active home exercise program is not documented. There is no current, detailed physical examination submitted for review and no specific, time-limited treatment goals are provided. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.

**ACUPUNCTURE FOR THE LEFT HAND, FINGERS, AND UPPER LIMB, QTY: 6.00:**  
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 clinical information provided, the request for acupuncture for the left hand, fingers and upper limb qty 6 is not recommended as medically necessary. The injured worker sustained injuries in 1998; however, there is no comprehensive assessment of treatment completed to date or the injured worker's response thereto submitted for review. The injured worker's compliance with an active home exercise program is not documented. There is no current, detailed physical examination submitted for review and no specific, time-limited treatment goals are provided. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.