

Case Number:	CM14-0102297		
Date Assigned:	09/16/2014	Date of Injury:	01/18/2011
Decision Date:	10/24/2014	UR Denial Date:	06/03/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/02/2014

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 Occupational Medicine 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 case involves a 40 year old female who has developed persistent low back and knee pain subsequent to a slip and fall injury dated 1/18/11. She has been diagnosed with lateral meniscal tear and chronic low back pain without radiculopathy. She has been treated with knee arthroscopy, oral analgesics and physical therapy. She has been returned to work in a modified capacity and continues to report pain that increases with activity levels.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Outpatient 10 acupuncture treatments to bilateral knee and lumbar spine: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: MTUS Acupuncture Guidelines are very specific regarding a trial and use of acupuncture. On a trial basis, 3-6 sessions maximum are recommended to ascertain functional results, before any additional sessions. A trial of acupuncture may be reasonable, but the request is not compliant with Guidelines and there are no unusual circumstances to justify an exception to Guidelines. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary.