

Case Number:	CM14-0016970		
Date Assigned:	03/07/2014	Date of Injury:	05/28/2009
Decision Date:	04/23/2014	UR Denial Date:	01/29/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	02/10/2014

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 licensed in Podiatry 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 40 year old male that reported an injury on 05/28/2009. The mechanism of injury was a fall. Clinical notes from the requesting physician were not provided for review. The patient was previously approved for 6 sessions of acupuncture for the right ankle.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

SIX SESSIONS ACUPUNCTURE FOR THE RIGHT ANKLE: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The California Acupuncture Guidelines for acupuncture state that acupuncture is an option when pain medications are reduced or not tolerated and it can be used with therapy to hasten functional recovery. The patient was noted to have been previously approved for 6 sessions of acupuncture. However, there was a lack of clinical information revealing the patient's response and efficacy of these sessions. Also, there was a lack of a recent and thorough examination of the patient detailing his current deficits and need for additional sessions. Therefore, the request for six sessions acupuncture for the right ankle are not medically necessary and appropriate.

