

Case Number:	CM14-0132948		
Date Assigned:	08/22/2014	Date of Injury:	05/29/2014
Decision Date:	09/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	07/22/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	08/19/2014

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 Chiropractic & 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:

Claimant is a 53 year old female who sustained a work related injury on 5/29/2014. Six acupuncture visits were authorized as a trial on 7/22/2014. Her diagnoses are headache, dizziness, photosensitivity, cervical/thoracic/lumbar/right shoulder sprain/strain, chest pain, anxiety, and sleep disturbance. Per a report dated on 6/6/2014, the claimant has constant, moderate headaches, chest pain that worsens with exertion, constant neck pain, constant right shoulder pain, constant upper back pain, and constant lower back pain. Prior treatment includes oral medication and work modification.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture for the cervical spine (2x per week for 6 weeks): Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: According to evidenced based guidelines, further acupuncture visits after an initial trial are medically necessary based on documented functional improvement. "Functional improvement" means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions. There is no documentation of completion or of functional

improvement from the authorized trial of six visits. Therefore further acupuncture is not medically necessary. If this is a request for an initial trial, eight visits exceeds the recommended guidelines for an initial trial.