

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM14-0160537		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	10/06/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	06/06/2008
<b>Decision Date:</b>	12/03/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	09/08/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	09/30/2014

### 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 Acupuncturist, and is licensed to practice in Florida. 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 55-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 6/6/08. The mechanism of the injury is unknown at this time. The patient had been diagnosed with: Degenerative changes of the left knee, S/P left knee arthroscopy and Internal derangement, left knee. He underwent 2 knee arthroscopies in 2009. The patient is on the following medications: Hydrocodone, Temazepam, Hydromorphone, Elavil, Naprosyn, Prilosec and Zolpidem. The patient has received PT, knee braces and knee (Synvisc and Cortisone) injections. The documentation suggests that the patient received symptom relief from these injections. Although the documentation in 2014 some lumbar and right hip symptoms as a result of compensating for the left knee, they do not appear to warrant impairment. Therefore, the medical necessity for the requested acupuncture sessions has not been established.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture right hip times 8:** Upheld

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

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

**Decision rationale:** The patient is a 55-year-old male who sustained an industrial injury on 6/6/08. The mechanism of the injury is unknown, however, the documentation shows left knee injury. He is on medication for his symptoms, has received PT, knee braces and injections of Cortisone and Synvisc. The documentation also suggests he received symptom relief from the injections. In 2014 the patient started complaining of right hip pain, however, the documentation suggests that the pain does not warrant impairment. As per CA MTUS Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guidelines (9792.24.1) Acupuncture is used as an option when pain medication is reduced or not tolerated, it may be used as an adjunct to physical rehabilitation and/or surgical intervention to expedite functional recovery. Acupuncture treatments may be extended if functional improvement is documented as defined in Section 9792.20 CA MTUS Acupuncture Guidelines requires clinical evidence of functional improvement for additional care to be considered. CA Acupuncture guidelines cited, 9792.24.1 states that the time to produce significant improvement is 3-6 treatments. It also states that acupuncture may be extended if functional improvement is documented including significant improvement in activities of daily living, reduction of work restriction, and reduction of dependency on continued medical treatment. The documentation provided suggests that the patient is taking medication, and the patient's functional improvement with the previous injections is favorable. The documentation suggests that the hip pain does not warrant impairment. Therefore, the request for acupuncture treatments for the right hip would not be medically necessary.