

Case Number:	CM14-0026436		
Date Assigned:	06/16/2014	Date of Injury:	11/19/2013
Decision Date:	07/16/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/18/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/03/2014

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 Acupuncture and Chiropractic 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 claimant was a 47 year old female who sustained a work related injury on 11/19/2013. An initial trial of six visits for an acupuncture trial was authorized on 5/13/2014. MRI findings show that there is tricep tendonitis and a small interstitial tear in the proximal extensor tendon with mild tendonitis. Per a PR-2 dated 1/6/2014, she has pain in her elbow and shoulder. She has been working with duty restrictions and taking medications. She has had physical therapy and feels better. The claimant still has soreness in her elbow and heaviness in her shoulder. Her diagnosis is elbow tendinosis and rhomboid strain. Per a PR-2 dated 2/12/14 the claimant notes that her symptoms are not better.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

ACUPUNCTURE 2 X 3 WEEKS - LEFT ELBOW: 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, six visits have already been approved.