

Case Number:	CM14-0030186		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	05/07/2003
Decision Date:	07/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/04/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/10/2014

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 Chiropractic and 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 55 year old male who sustained a work related injury on 5/7/2003. Six sessions were certified as an initial trial for acupuncture on 3/4/2014. Per a PR-2 dated 2/25/2014, the claimant has constant neck pain that is worse at night and exacerbated by certain movements. He also has pain radiating down both arms with weakness and numbness on both hands. His diagnoses are degenerative disc disease of cervical spine. Prior treatment includes physical therapy, modified work, upper extremity surgeries, cervical surgeries, epidurals, and psychological treatments. No other information was submitted with this request.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Twelve (12) Sessions of Acupuncture for the Cervical Spine: 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.