

Case Number:	CM14-0033807		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	02/02/2010
Decision Date:	08/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/09/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/18/2014

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:

The claimant is a male who sustained a work related injury on 2/10/2010. Her diagnoses are spinal stenosis in cervical region, carpal tunnel syndrome, cervicgia, displacement cervical intervertebral disc without myelopathy, intervertebral disc disorders, lateral epicondylitis of the elbow, lesion of ulnar nerve, and pain in joint pelvic region and thigh. Six acupuncture visits were certified on 3/9/2014. Prior treatment includes trigger point injections, oral medications, and cervical surgery. He is not working. Per a report dated 5/13/2014, the claimant has continued pain in the base of the neck. He also has some hip complaints.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture x 8 visits: 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.