

Case Number:	CM14-0034019		
Date Assigned:	06/20/2014	Date of Injury:	06/05/2012
Decision Date:	07/18/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2014
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 Board Certified 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 32 year old male who sustained a work related injury on 6/5/2012. An acupuncture trial of six treatments was authorized on 2/18/2014. Per a Pr-2 dated 5/7/14, the claimant is feeling better. He has sharp and constant low back pain that is worse with flexion and extension, better with rest and lying down. The pain radiates down to his left leg and foot. His diagnoses are lumbar disc bulge, lumbar strain and lumbar spinal stenosis. Prior treatment includes chiropractic, physical therapy, and oral medication. He is on modified work.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

10 acupuncture sessions: 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, the request for 10 acupuncture sessions is not medically necessary.