

Case Number:	CM14-0037285		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	10/31/2011
Decision Date:	08/05/2014	UR Denial Date:	02/27/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/27/2014

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 Chiropractics, has a subspecialty in 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 patient is a 52-year-old female with a date of injury of 10/31/2011. According to the progress report dated 2/7/2014, the patient complained of low back pain with radiation to the left lower extremity. The patient rated her pain level at 8/10. The patient noted weakness, numbness, and swelling in the left extremity. Physical exam remains unchanged. The patient was diagnosed with lumbar spine degenerative disc disease.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 12 Low Back Complaints, Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines TENS.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Additional 6-acupuncture session is not medically necessary at this time. According to the progress report dated 11/26/2013, the patient had 12 acupuncture visits. There was no documentation of functional improvement from the completed acupuncture sessions. The Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guideline states that acupuncture may be extended if there is documentation of functional improvement.