

Case Number:	CM14-0038369		
Date Assigned:	06/25/2014	Date of Injury:	07/24/2001
Decision Date:	07/28/2014	UR Denial Date:	03/18/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/01/2014

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 & 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 67 year old male who sustained a work related injury on 7/2/2001. According to a prior UR (Utilization) review, his diagnoses are peripheral neuropathy, tarsal tunnel syndrome, and limb pain. He is retired and not working. Prior treatment includes acupuncture and oral medication. He has numbness and pain in his feet. An acupuncturist note dated 2/27/2014, states that the claimant feels much better after 13 visits. He relates 75% improvement. There are only several tender spots in the webs of his toes. EMG (Electromyography) findings show that he has advanced peripheral neuropathy.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Twelve (12) Acupuncture sessions for the right foot: 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 a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions, medication, or dependency on continued medical treatment. The

claimant has had had thirteen sessions of acupuncture, and the provider states that there is 75% improvement. Furthermore the provider states that there are only several tender spots in the toes. In addition, he provider failed to document objective functional improvement associated with the completion of his acupuncture visits. Therefore the request of twelve (12) acupuncture sessions for the right foot is not medically necessary.