

Case Number:	CM14-0071920		
Date Assigned:	07/16/2014	Date of Injury:	10/08/2012
Decision Date:	08/22/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/05/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/19/2014

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 33 year old male who sustained a work related injury on 10/8/2012. Prior treatment includes bilateral foot surgery, physical therapy, home exercise, and oral medication. Per a PR-2 dated 4/28/2014, the claimant has a little improvement. He has pain in both feet. He felt a pop at the screw area. His diagnoses are fracture in the calcaneus, navicular, and pain in the ankle joint. He is working with restrictions of 30 minutes standing, walking, and sitting. Per an acupuncture report, the claimant had acupuncture treatment on 4/18/14 and 4/25/14.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

12 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. The claimant has had prior acupuncture and it is unclear how

many total visits have been authorized. With the two documented acupuncture visits, there is no evidence of improvement. Therefore further acupuncture is not medically necessary.