

Case Number:	CM15-0144980		
Date Assigned:	08/05/2015	Date of Injury:	09/17/2013
Decision Date:	09/09/2015	UR Denial Date:	07/10/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	07/27/2015

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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:

State(s) of Licensure: California

Certification(s)/Specialty: Chiropractor, Oriental Medicine

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 injured worker is a 67 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 09-17-2013. She has reported injury to the neck, lip and chin, both shoulders, both forearms, both hands, and both knees. The diagnoses have included neck muscle strain; left shoulder muscle strain; right shoulder muscle strain; right rotator cuff syndrome; left wrist joint pain; right wrist joint pain; bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome; left elbow joint pain; bilateral knee joint pain; right ulnar nerve entrapment at elbow; and right thumb pain. Treatment to date has included medications, diagnostics, acupuncture, and physical therapy. Medications have included Norco, Tramadol, Lidoderm Patch, Salonpas Patch, Lodine, Colace, and compounded topical cream. A progress note from the treating physician, dated 07-06-2015, documented a follow-up visit with the injured worker. The injured worker reported increased pain in her right shoulder and neck since coming back from vacation; she feels she may have experienced an aggravation of her right shoulder; the pain is rated at 8 out of 10 in intensity on the pain scale; the pain is mostly constant, except in certain positions; she stayed within her restrictions; and she is using the Lidocaine patches, Motrin, and has increased her Norco consumption to 5 daily. Objective findings included the neck is limited with extension, bilateral rotation, and bilateral lateral flexion; tenderness of the neck muscles; no tenderness noted with shoulder exam; range of motion is limited with flexion and extension of the right shoulder; sensation is intact in the upper extremity; well-healed midline surgical scar to the bilateral knees with no tenderness upon palpation; bilateral tenderness over the lateral and medial epicondyles; positive tenderness of the right forearm; there is decreased sensation of medial arms bilaterally; no tenderness over the

bilateral wrists; and Tinel's sign is positive bilaterally. The treatment plan has included the request for additional acupuncture 2x3 for the right shoulder and neck.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Additional Acupuncture 2x3 for the right shoulder and neck: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The patient complained of increased pain in the right shoulder and neck. The Acupuncture Medical Treatment guideline states that acupuncture may be extended with documentation of functional improvement. There was no documentation of functional improvement from prior acupuncture treatments. Therefore, the provider's request for 6 additional acupuncture sessions for the right shoulder and neck is not medically necessary at this time.