

Case Number:	CM15-0039058		
Date Assigned:	03/09/2015	Date of Injury:	06/10/2013
Decision Date:	04/21/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/13/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/02/2015

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 50-year-old male, who sustained an industrial injury on June 10, 2013. He has reported injury of the head, back, wrist, left shoulder, and right foot. The diagnoses have included post concussion syndrome, cervical radiculitis, carpal tunnel syndrome, ulnar nerve lesion, 5th metatarsal fracture, and head injury not otherwise specified. Treatment to date has included imaging, medications. Currently, the IW complains of neck pain, and headaches. He reports increased headaches when looking down or moving his head. He continues to take Tramadol for pain. He rates his pain as 6/10. Physical findings are indicated as cervical spine tenderness, tightness, spasms, and trigger points on the left side. Tenderness is also noted in the rhomboids and trapezius muscles. The provider indicates he has not had an acupuncture trial. On February 13, 2015, Utilization Review non-certified acupuncture without stimulation, two times weekly for four weeks. The Acupuncture guidelines were cited. On February 23, 2015, the injured worker submitted an application for IMR for review of acupuncture without stimulation, two times weekly for four weeks, for the neck and head.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

8 acupuncture sessions 2 times a week for 4 weeks for neck and head: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: Patient has not had prior Acupuncture treatment. Provider requested initial trial of 8 acupuncture sessions which were non-certified by the utilization review. Per guidelines, 3-6 treatments are supported for initial course of Acupuncture with evidence of functional improvement prior to consideration of additional care. Requested visits exceed the quantity of initial acupuncture visits supported by the cited guidelines. Additional visits may be rendered if the patient has documented objective functional improvement. MTUS- Definition 9792.20 (f) Functional improvement means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions as measured during the history and physical exam. Per guidelines and review of evidence, 8 Acupuncture visits are not medically necessary.