

Case Number:	CM15-0045942		
Date Assigned:	03/18/2015	Date of Injury:	12/04/2014
Decision Date:	04/24/2015	UR Denial Date:	02/17/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	03/11/2015

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, District of Columbia, Maryland
Certification(s)/Specialty: Anesthesiology, Pain Management

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 42 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 12/4/2014. She reported a slip and fall, injuring her left shoulder, low back and left shoulder. The injured worker was diagnosed as having left shoulder and low back pain and coccyx fracture. Treatment to date has included medication management. Currently, a progress note from the treating provider dated 2/2/2015 indicates the injured worker reported moderate left shoulder pain and low back pain.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Eight Acupuncture Visits for the low back: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The California MTUS guidelines recommends up to six initial visits of Acupuncture followed by an assessment of functional improvement to determine if further sessions are warranted. Although the injured employee has chronic low back pain and appears to

be a good candidate for Acupuncture, considering the guideline recommendations, this request for eight visits of Acupuncture for the low back is not medically necessary.