

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0055346		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/30/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	07/09/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/05/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/12/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/23/2015

### 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 53-year-old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 7/9/13. The injured worker has complaints of neck pain; back pain and left upper extremity pain. The diagnoses have included status post left shoulder arthropathy; cervicalgia and lumbago. Treatment to date has included left shoulder arthroscopy done 9/13/14; physic chiro for her neck; Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) unit and medications. The request was for acupuncture 2X week X 6 weeks for the cervical spine, lumbar spine and bilateral shoulders.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture 2xWk x 6Wks for the cervical spine, lumbar spine and bilateral shoulders:**  
 Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** Decision based on MTUS ACOEM Chapter 9 Shoulder Complaints, Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

**Decision rationale:** Patient has had prior acupuncture treatment. Provider requested additional 12 acupuncture sessions which were non-certified by the utilization review. There is no

assessment in the provided medical records of functional efficacy with prior acupuncture visits. Medical reports reveal little evidence of significant changes or improvement in findings, revealing a patient who has not achieved significant objective functional improvement to warrant additional treatment. Additional visits may be rendered if the patient has documented objective functional improvement. Per MTUS guidelines, 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 or decrease in medication intake. Per review of evidence and guidelines, 2x6 acupuncture treatments are not medically necessary.