

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0059689		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/06/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/05/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/05/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/10/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	03/30/2015

### 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: Arizona, California  
 Certification(s)/Specialty: Family Practice

### 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 35 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 09/05/2013. The initial diagnoses or complaints at time of injury were not clearly noted. On provider visit dated 12/11/2014 the injured worker has reported left knee buckling, popping, giving way and pain with walking and driving. On examination of the left ankle, it was noted to have tenderness to palpation. The diagnoses have included left knee sprain, chondromalacia of patella and left ankle sprain. Treatment to date has included acupuncture. The provider requested acupuncture 2 times a week for 6 weeks.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture 2 times a week for 6 weeks:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** According to the guidelines, "Acupuncture" is used as an option when pain medication is reduced or not tolerated, it may be used as an adjunct to physical rehabilitation

and/or surgical intervention to hasten functional recovery. In this case, the claimant had already completed at least 6 sessions of acupuncture. Time for function improvement is 3-6 sessions. Although acupuncture is beneficial, the request for an additional 12 sessions of acupuncture is an option and not medically necessary.