

Case Number:	CM15-0082450		
Date Assigned:	05/04/2015	Date of Injury:	07/02/2013
Decision Date:	06/05/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/02/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/29/2015

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 29 year old female injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 07/02/2013. The diagnoses included lumbar disc disease with lumbar disc protrusion with right radiculopathy. The diagnostics included lumbar computerized tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. The injured worker had been treated with medication and exercises. On 3/25/2015, the treating provider reported low back pain that is constant rated 5/10 with right leg pain that was intermittent. She reported decreased in severity of back pain with regular exercises. The treatment plan included Acupuncture.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture 6 sessions to the lumbar spine, 2 times 3: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: It appears that this is a request for an initial acupuncture trial. Evidenced based guidelines recommend a trial of acupuncture for chronic pain. Further acupuncture after

an initial trial is medically necessary based on functional improvement. Functional improvement is defined as a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living, a reduction in work restrictions, or a reduction of dependency on continued medical treatments or medications. Since there is no documentation the claimant had prior acupuncture, 6 visits of acupuncture are not medically necessary.