

Case Number:	CM15-0085031		
Date Assigned:	05/07/2015	Date of Injury:	02/14/1984
Decision Date:	06/10/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	05/04/2015

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 68-year-old male injured worker suffered an industrial injury on 02/14/1984. The diagnoses included lumbar fusion. The injured worker had been treated with surgery and medications. On 2/5/2015, the treating provider reported the back pain continued and had been having difficulty getting the medications. 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:

8 acupuncture sessions for the lumbar spine: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: There was no evidence of prior acupuncture session in the submitted progress notes. Based on the medical records, a current prescription for acupuncture would most accurately be evaluated as an initial trial, for which the guidelines recommend 3-6 visits. However, the provider's request for 8-acupuncture session for the lumbar spine exceeds the

guidelines recommendation. Therefore, the provider's request is inconsistent with the evidence-based guidelines and is not medically necessary at this time.