

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0064351		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/03/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	09/22/2011
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/15/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	11/27/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	12/11/2013

### 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. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Chiropractic, has a subspecialty in Acupuncture and is licensed to practice in California. 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/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### 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 patient is a 46 year old female with a date of injury of 09/22/2011. According to the progress report dated 10/17/2013, the patient complained of right ankle and left foot pain. The ankle pain is rated at 7/10 with burning and swelling. The left foot pain was described as a pulling sensation when stretching. Significant objective findings included no erythema in the foot. There was hypersensitivity to touch in the feet. The patient was diagnosed with RSD and equinus.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

#### **ACUPUNCTURE FOR THE RIGHT ANKLE AND FOOT (6 SESSIONS): Upheld**

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

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

**Decision rationale:** Records indicate that the patient had more than 6 acupuncture session. The guideline states that acupuncture may be extended if there is documentation of functional improvement. According to the progress report dated 9/19/2013, the patient reported doing worse. The patient continued to have intermittent burning sensation. Based on the lack of functional improvement, additional acupuncture session to the right ankle and foot is not medically necessary at this time.

