

Case Number:	CM13-0067249		
Date Assigned:	01/03/2014	Date of Injury:	07/27/2011
Decision Date:	03/26/2014	UR Denial Date:	12/09/2013
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	12/17/2013

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 licensed in Chiropractic & 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:

Claimant is a 72 year old female who sustained a work related injury on 7/27/2011. She has left ankle, back, and severe foot pain. She also has leg weakness. Her diagnosis is foot/ankle joint pain. Per a PR-2 dated 11/27/2013, the claimant has tried acupuncture 2-3 times in the past but stopped for an unknown reason. Prior treatment includes surgery, physical therapy, oral medication, and acupuncture. The claimant is retired.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

acupuncture treatments once a week for (Ten) 10 Weeks for the left ankle: Upheld

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

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: According to evidenced based guidelines, further acupuncture visits after an initial trial are medically necessary based on documented functional improvement. "Functional improvement" means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions. The claimant has had acupuncture in the past of unknown quantity. However the provider failed to document or state functional improvement associated with her acupuncture visits in the past. He states that she stopped for an unknown reason and

does not mention any prior benefit. Therefore without prior functional gains, further acupuncture is not medically necessary. Therefore, Decision for acupuncture treatments once a week for (Ten) 10 Weeks for the left ankle is not medically necessary and appropriate.