

Case Number:	CM14-0109156		
Date Assigned:	07/25/2014	Date of Injury:	03/19/2008
Decision Date:	08/29/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/16/2014

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 care, 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 53 year old male with a date of injury of 3/19/2005. According to the progress report dated 2/17/2014, the patient complained of persistent neck pain with radiating pain into the upper extremities. Significant objective findings include decrease range of motion in the cervical spine, positive axial compression test, and left positive Spurling's test.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Pain.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The acupuncture medical treatment guideline recommends acupuncture for chronic pain. It states that acupuncture may be extended if there is documentation of functional improvement. The patient was authorized 6 acupuncture visits on 10/15/2013. There was no documentation of functional improvement from prior acupuncture sessions. Therefore, the provider's request for 12 acupuncture sessions is not medically necessary.