

Case Number:	CM14-0184452		
Date Assigned:	11/12/2014	Date of Injury:	02/03/2014
Decision Date:	12/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	10/07/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	11/06/2014

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 a licensed Chiropractor, 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 34-year-old female with a date of injury of 2/3/2014. According to the progress report dated 9/3/2014, the patient complained of right shoulder and low back pain. The pain was rated at 7/10. The pain was moderate, sharp, and burning. Significant objective findings include tenderness and decrease range of motion in the shoulder in all planes. There was tenderness and pain with movement in the lumbar spine.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

6 Acupuncture visits for the right shoulder, 2x/week for 3 weeks as an outpatient:

Overtured

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: 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. The provider's request for 6 acupuncture sessions is within the evidence-based guideline and therefore is medically necessary.