

Case Number:	CM15-0106186		
Date Assigned:	06/10/2015	Date of Injury:	04/28/2014
Decision Date:	07/15/2015	UR Denial Date:	05/22/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/02/2015

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:

This 25-year-old woman sustained an industrial injury on 4/28/2014. The mechanism of injury is not detailed. Diagnoses include cervical spine strain/sprain, shoulder pain, and lumbar spine sprain. Treatment has included oral medications. Physician notes dated 5/13/2015 show complaints of lumbar spine pain. Recommendations include resuming acupuncture, lumbar epidural steroid injection, and follow up in six weeks.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

Acupuncture 2 x 6 low back: Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS ACOEM
Page(s): 114, Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Acupuncture Treatment Guidelines.

Decision rationale: The patient complains of lumbar spine pain. The Acupuncture Medical Treatment guideline states that acupuncture may be extended with documentation of functional improvement. Records indicate that the patient received acupuncture in the past. However, there was no objective quantifiable documentation regarding functional improvement from prior

acupuncture sessions. Therefore, the provider's request for 12 additional acupuncture sessions to the low back is not medically necessary at this time.