

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0010951		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	01/28/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	04/10/2013
<b>Decision Date:</b>	03/20/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	12/26/2014
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	01/20/2015

### 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:

The injured worker is a 44 year old male, who sustained an industrial injury on 4/10/2013. He was exiting restroom at work, when an automatic door closed in front of him and struck the left side of his head and right knee. The current diagnoses are post-concussion syndrome and cervical whiplash. Currently, the injured worker complains of ongoing neck pain, headaches, and right knee pain. Examination revealed decreased range of motion and tenderness to palpation of the injured areas. The treating physician is requesting 12 acupuncture sessions to the cervical spine, which is now under review. On 12/26/2014, Utilization Review had non-certified a request for 12 acupuncture sessions to the cervical spine. The acupuncture was non-certified based on no description of benefit from previous acupuncture treatments. The California MTUS Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guidelines were cited.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture of the cervical spine 2 x 6:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** Patient has had prior acupuncture treatment. Provider requested additional 2X6 acupuncture sessions which were non-certified by the utilization review. There is no assessment in the provided medical records of functional efficacy with prior acupuncture visits. Medical reports reveal little evidence of significant changes or improvement in findings, revealing a patient who has not achieved significant objective functional improvement to warrant additional treatment. Additional visits may be rendered if the patient has documented objective functional improvement. Per MTUS guidelines, Functional improvement means either a clinically significant improvement in activities of daily living or a reduction in work restrictions as measured during the history and physical exam or decrease in medication intake. Requested visits exceed the quantity supported by cited guidelines. Per review of evidence and guidelines, 2X6 acupuncture treatments are not medically necessary.