

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM15-0065964		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	04/13/2015	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	02/11/2014
<b>Decision Date:</b>	05/18/2015	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	03/26/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	04/07/2015

### 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 36 year old female who sustained an industrial injury on February 11, 2014. She has reported injury to the left ankle and has been diagnosed with left ankle sprain. Treatment has included therapy, ice, medication, splinting, and modified work duty. Currently the injured worker had tenderness over the left lateral ankle posterior and inferior to the lateral malleolus. The treatment request included acupuncture.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Acupuncture therapy, twice weekly for 3 weeks, left ankle:** Upheld

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

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

**Decision rationale:** The Acupuncture Medical Treatment guideline states that acupuncture may be extended with documentation of functional improvement. The patient was diagnosed with left ankle sprain. According to the progress report dated 7/15/2014, the patient reported that acupuncture was helping with the pain. There was no objective quantifiable documentation

regarding functional improvement gained from acupuncture sessions in the past. Therefore, the provider's request for 6-acupuncture session to the left ankle is not medically necessary at this time.