

Case Number:	CM15-0070521		
Date Assigned:	04/20/2015	Date of Injury:	04/18/2014
Decision Date:	05/21/2015	UR Denial Date:	04/13/2015
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	04/14/2015

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 67 year old female, who sustained an industrial injury on 4/18/2014. Diagnoses have included left knee/left leg pain. According to the progress note dated 3/3/2015, the injured worker complained of constant dull pain in the left knee with a burning sensation. There was no physical exam documented. Authorization was requested for acupuncture for the left knee.

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 6 weeks for the left knee: 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 recommends acupuncture for pain. It states recommends 3-6 visits to produce functional improvement. It states that acupuncture may be extended with documentation of functional improvement. There was no evidence of prior acupuncture session. Therefore, an initial trial of acupuncture may be

medically necessary. However, the provider's request for 12 acupuncture session for the left knee exceeds the guidelines recommendation of 3-6 visits. Therefore, the provider's request is not medically necessary at this time.