

MAXIMUS FEDERAL SERVICES, INC.

Independent Medical Review

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Notice of Independent Medical Review Determination

Dated: 12/11/2013

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Employee:	[REDACTED]
Claim Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of UR Decision:	8/7/2013
Date of Injury:	6/28/2010
IMR Application Received:	8/14/2013
MAXIMUS Case Number:	CM13-0011326

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for 12 sessions of acupuncture for the low back **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL REVIEW DECISION AND RATIONALE

An application for Independent Medical Review was filed on 8/14/2013 disputing the Utilization Review Denial dated 8/7/2013. A Notice of Assignment and Request for Information was provided to the above parties on 9/24/2013. A decision has been made for each of the treatment and/or services that were in dispute:

- 1) MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc. has determined the request for 12 sessions of acupuncture for the low back **is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Medical Qualifications of the Expert Reviewer:

The independent Expert Reviewer who made the decision has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The physician reviewer is Board Certified in Acupuncture and Chiropractic 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 treatments and/or services at issue.

Expert Reviewer Case Summary:

The claimant is a 27 year old male who was involved in a work related injury on June 28, 2010. His primary diagnosis is chronic low back pain. He also has cervicalgia, bilateral knee pain, bilateral wrist sprain, bilateral ankle sprain, and multilevel cervical spine disc bulges. He has severe pain in all the above mentioned areas and characterizes the pain as a constant electrical current. He also complains of a sliding sensation in the spine and his knees popping, stiffness, and instability at the ankles. He also has spasms in his right wrist. He has had MRIs of both knees. Lumbar spine range of motion is normal and full but with pain. He had right knee surgery on January 18, 2012. He does not appear to have had any prior acupuncture treatment.

Documents Reviewed for Determination:

The following relevant documents received from the interested parties and the documents provided with the application were reviewed and considered. These documents included:

- Application of Independent Medical Review
- Utilization Review Determination
- Medical Records from Claims Administrator
- Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS)

- 1) **Regarding the request for 12 sessions of acupuncture for the low back:**

Section of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Relied Upon by the Expert Reviewer to Make His/Her Decision

The Claims Administrator based its decision on ACOEM and ODG.

The Expert Reviewer based his/her decision on the Acupuncture Medical Treatment Guidelines (2009), which are a part of the MTUS.

Rationale for the Decision:

According to the evidence-based guidelines, an initial trial of acupuncture consists of three to six visits. After an initial trial, additional visits are medically necessary based on documented functional improvement. There appears to have been no prior trial of acupuncture for the claimant so an initial trial may be warranted. However, the number of visits requested exceeds the number of visits indicated for an initial trial. **The request for 12 sessions of acupuncture is not medically necessary and appropriate.**

Effect of the Decision:

The determination of MAXIMUS Federal Services and its physician reviewer is deemed to be the final determination of the Administrative Director, Division of Workers' Compensation. With respect to the medical necessity of the treatment in dispute, this determination is binding on all parties.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 4610.6(h), a determination of the administrative director may be reviewed only if a verified appeal is filed with the appeals board for hearing and served on all interested parties within 30 days of the date of mailing of the determination to the employee or the employer. The determination of the administrative director shall be presumed to be correct and shall be set aside only upon proof by clear and convincing evidence of one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in Labor Code Section 4610.6(h)(1) through (5).

Sincerely,

Paul Manchester, MD, MPH
Medical Director

cc: Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Workers' Compensation
1515 Clay Street, 18th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

/dso

Disclaimer: MAXIMUS is providing an independent review service under contract with the California Department of Industrial Relations. MAXIMUS is not engaged in the practice of law or medicine. Decisions about the use or nonuse of health care services and treatments are the sole responsibility of the patient and the patient's physician. MAXIMUS is not liable for any consequences arising from these decisions.