

SOUTHWEST MEDICAL EXAMINATION SERVICES, INC.
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DATE OF REVIEW: April 24, 2007

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Work Hardening – 20 sessions (97545 and 97546)

A DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION:

Diplomate of the American Chiropractic Neurology Board

REVIEW OUTCOME

Upon independent review the reviewer finds that the previous adverse determination/adverse determinations should be:

Upheld (Agree)

Overturned (Disagree)

Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

Medical records from the Requestor include:

- M.D., 12/13/05, 02/28/06
- M.D., 01/16/06
- M.D., 08/10/06, 11/17/06, 01/12/07, 02/01/07, 02/16/07
- Hospital, 08/17/06
- Imaging Center, 12/18/06
- MRI & Diagnostic, 12/20/06
- Wellness, 01/16/07
- 01/23/07, 02/28/07
- Kinetics, 02/28/07

Medical records from the Carrier include:

- Medical Center, 09/01/05
- M.D., 09/06/05, 09/07/05, 09/08/05, 09/12/05, 09/19/05, 09/21/05, 09/28/05, 10/18/05
- Center & Open MRI, 09/06/05, 10/12/05
- M.D., 09/30/05, 10/18/05, 11/17/05, 12/06/05
- Injury Center 11/03/05, 11/07/05, 11/08/05, 11/11/05, 11/14/05, 11/16/05, 11/21/05, 11/23/05, 11/28/05, 11/30/05, 12/05/05, 12/07/05, 12/08/05, 12/09/05, 12/12/05, 12/13/05, 12/15/05, 12/19/05, 12/23/05, 12/26/05, 03/07/06, 03/13/06, 03/20/06, 03/23/06, 03/27/06, 03/29/06, 04/04/06, 04/07/06, 04/10/06, 04/13/06, 04/17/06, 04/18/06, 04/24/06, 04/26/06, 05/01/06, 05/03/06, 05/10/06, 05/11/06, 05/12/06, 05/15/06, 05/17/06, 05/19/06, 05/22/06, 05/24/06, 05/30/06, 05/31/06, 06/01/06, 06/05/06, 06/07/06, 06/09/06, 06/12/06, 06/14/06, 06/15/06, 06/16/06, 06/20/06, 06/21/06, 06/22/06, 06/26/06, 06/27/06, 06/28/06, 07/05/06, 07/06/06, 07/07/06, 07/10/06, 07/13/06, 07/14/06, 07/18/06, 07/19/06, 07/20/06, 10/03/06, 10/04/06, 10/05/06, 10/09/06, 10/10/06, 10/11/06, 10/16/06, 10/17/06, 10/18/06, 10/23/06, 10/24/06, 10/25/06, 10/30/06, 10/31/06, 11/01/06, 11/06/06, 11/07/06, 11/08/06, 11/13/06, 11/14/06, 11/15/06, 11/17/06, 11/20/06, 11/21/06, 11/22/06, 11/28/06, 12/01/06, 12/07/06, 02/01/07, 03/01/07
- Rehabilitation Services 10/31/05, 11/02/05, 11/03/05
- D.C., 12/07/05, 01/04/06, 01/09/06, 02/07/06, 02/13/06, 01/25/07
- M.D., 12/13/05, 02/07/06, 02/28/06, 03/13/06, 03/21/06, 03/29/06, 04/11/06, 04/26/06, 05/16/06, 05/31/06, 06/13/06
- M.D., 12/19/05, 01/16/06
- M.D., 02/02/06
- Neurosurgery Center, 05/03/06, 07/14/06, 08/04/06, 12/01/06
- M.D., 06/06/06, 01/16/07
- Kinetics, 07/27/06, 01/23/07
- M.D., 08/10/06, 10/05/06, 11/17/06, 02/01/07, 02/16/07, 03/22/07
- Hospital, 08/17/06
- Imaging Center, 12/18/06
- MRI & Diagnostic, 12/20/06
- 01/23/07, 02/13/07, 02/20/07, 02/28/07, 03/06/07

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY:

The patient was involved in an auto accident . He was operating a truck down a slope when the truck tipped over with his head hitting the machine. He was initially seen at the emergency room and returned to work on light duty. The patient was then laid off. He then began treating with a chiropractor. He has had x-rays, physical therapy, TENS unit, chiropractic, injections, and L4-5 laminectomy/discectomy on August 17, 2006. The patient had 24 sessions of postoperative physical therapy with minimal improvement. He has also had mental health evaluation.

Functional capacity evaluation performed on February 8, 2007 reveals the patient to still be at a sedentary/light level.

The patient was also seen by M.D., who suggested another surgery or fusion of the segment might be necessary.

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDE CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION.

I have reviewed the medical records and the preauthorization determination that has denied work hardening times 20 sessions based on the fact that the patient failed to improve overall and the physical demand level failed to improve overall. The patient has severe anxiety. Based on the guidelines, 20 sessions of physical therapy following surgery were appropriate. The fact that the patient failed to respond very well to the initial physical would suggest that further work hardening and/or conditioning certainly would not be necessary. Additionally, the patient would not likely be able to return to a heavy duty job at this time or in the future. Therefore, I agree with the denial of work hardening, 20 sessions.

A DESCRIPTION AND THE SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE THE DECISION:

- ACOEM- AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE UM KNOWLEDGEBASE
- AHCPR- AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH & QUALITY GUIDELINES
- DWC- DIVISION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION POLICIES OR GUIDELINES
- EUROPEAN GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN
- INTERQUAL CRITERIA
- MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE, AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS
- MERCY CENTER CONSENSUS CONFERENCE GUIDELINES
- MILLIMAN CARE GUIDELINES
- ODG- OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES

- PRESSLEY REED, THE MEDICAL DISABILITY ADVISOR**
- TEXAS GUIDELINES FOR CHIROPRACTIC QUALITY ASSURANCE & PRACTICE PARAMETERS**
- TEXAS TACADA GUIDELINES**
- TMF SCREENING CRITERIA MANUAL**
- PEER REVIEWED NATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL LITERATURE (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)**
- OTHER EVIDENCE BASED, SCIENTIFICALLY VALID, OUTCOME FOCUSED GUIDELINES (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)**