



Amended February 27, 2007

DATE OF REVIEW: February 26, 2007

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OR THE SERVICE OF SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Attending physician has reportedly requested 10 physical therapy sessions for January 2007.

QUALIFICATIONS:

MD with board certification in neurology.

REVIEW OUTCOME:

Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be:

Upheld (Agree)
 Overturned (Disagree)
 Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

It is unclear what has actually been requested, but documentation is inadequate to permit judgment about the adequacy of care or the appropriateness of treatment in this case.

INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:

Large amounts documentation including office visits in October and December 2006. Also contained was additional paperwork representing case reviews and requests for case reviews. The carrier presented guidelines for the reviewer.

INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):

female injured in with a reported slip-and-fall injury. She was examined by a physician

requested by the insurance carrier, the results of which are unknown to me. Her current physician examined her in a report from October 2006 and described multiple points of pain along the upper and lower spine with positive Spurling's sign and straight leg raising sign. She was described as having limitation of range of motion about the neck, lower back and left shoulder. She has tenderness about the left lateral elbow and the left wrist. She apparently also complains of left facial numbness. There is no record of either plain films of the head, spine, shoulder or arm, nor were there MRI studies of the spine and shoulder obtained. The physician has requested the MRI and electrodiagnostic studies.

The patient has completed 24 physical therapy sessions with some improvement, is taking Vicodin regularly and has been placed on total disability for the present.

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION, INCLUDING CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT DECISION:

The medical records covering this work-related injury are inadequate to make a reasoned judgment in favor of continued physical therapy. There has been no acceptable evaluation (at least from the materials provided) of this patient, with a thorough physical examination, neurological examination or orthopedic examination. Basic post-injury radiography has not been performed.

In order to proceed with any treatment, this patient needs an adequate medical evaluation by a physician capable. Then, head, spine and shoulder MRIs are suggested, along with plain films of the left arm and wrist. There is no reason to perform electrodiagnostic studies until the physical examination and radiography have been performed and reported. There is no reason to continue physical therapy until one knows what one is treating. Open-ended continued medication with Vicodin is not advisable as this is a habit-forming medication and may be covering up symptoms and a disease process. Short-term use may continue until the necessary evaluations can be performed, and one would hope that this could be accomplished within two weeks or less.

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

- ACOEM 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 judgment, clinical experience and expertise in accordance with accepted medical standards
- Mercy Center Consensus Conference Guidelines
- Milliran 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 (with description)

____ Other evidence-based, scientifically valid, outcome-focused guidelines (with description)