



DATE OF REVIEW: July 17, 2007

IRO Case #:

**Description of the services in dispute:**

Pre-authorization request – 20 sessions of work hardening.

**A description of the qualifications for each physician or other health care provider who reviewed the decision**

This review was provided by a chiropractor who is licensed in Texas, certified by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, is a member of the American Chiropractic Association and has several years of licensing board experience. This reviewer has given numerous presentations with their field of specialty. This reviewer has been in continuous active practice for over twenty years.

**Review Outcome**

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

Overtured

**Provide a description of the review outcome that clearly states whether or not medical necessity exists for each of the health care services in dispute.**

Medical necessity does exist for the requested 20 sessions of work hardening.

**Information provided to the IRO for review**

Records Received from the State:

Fax cover sheet from to, 7/2/07

Preauthorization request for work hardening, 4/20/07

Preauthorization request for work hardening, 6/16/07

Confirmation of receipt of a request for a review by an independent review organization, 6/27/07

Company request for IRO, 6/27/07

Request for a review by an independent review organization, 6/16/07

Initial denial, 5/1/07

Denial of reconsideration, 6/21/07

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Notice to utilization review agent of assignment of independent review organization, 7/2/07  
Notice to Medical Review Institute of America, Inc, of case assignment, 7/2/07  
Imaging report, 10/31/06  
ERGOS evaluation summary report, 4/11/07  
Behavioral assessment of pain and medical stability, 4/11/07  
Preauthorization request for work hardening, 4/20/07  
Preauthorization request for work hardening, 5/15/07  
Patient profile, 7/2/07  
Prescription for work hardening, 3/30/07

#### Records Received from Dr., DC

Notice of assignment of independent review organization, 7/2/07  
Preauthorization request for work hardening, 6/16/07  
Statement of disputed issues for PA IRO, 7/11/07  
Preauthorization request for work hardening, 7/11/07  
Consultation report, 6/22/07  
Work hardening patient compliance and return to work goal, 7/11/07  
Job description, 7/11/07

Duplicate records of above, 121 pages

#### Patient clinical history [summary]

The patient is a female food service coordinator who, on xx/xx/xx, bent to lift a container of ice when she slipped and fell to the floor and the ice fell on top of her, injuring her right shoulder. An MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) of the right shoulder was performed on 10/31/06 and revealed a mild tendinopathy and mild AC (acromioclavicular) joint edema, likely degenerative in nature, but no evidence of any tear or significant AC joint osseous hypertrophy. The patient underwent 21 supervised sessions of physical therapy, including active procedures, a home exercise program, injections and oral pain medications. Despite these interventions, an FCE (functional capacity evaluation) performed on 4/11/07 revealed the patient was still functioning at a sedentary PDL (physical demand level) and her pre-injury occupational requirement was that of a medium PDL.

#### Analysis and explanation of the decision include clinical basis, findings and conclusions used to support the decision.

In this case, there is adequate documentation supporting the presence of an occupational injury, and that the patient's current status fails to meet the functional requirements necessary to return to her pre-injury position. In addition, the findings from the behavioral assessment that was

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performed on 4/11/07 adequately meet the criteria for entrance into a work hardening program. The patient desires to return to her pre-injury occupation, and the employer did not have the ability to allow the claimant to work with restrictions. Therefore, the claimant adequately meets the criteria for entrance into a multidisciplinary work hardening program under Section 408.021 of the Texas Labor Code, and TWCC Rule 134/1001 (C.)(1)(A).

**A description and the source of the screening criteria or other clinical basis used to make the decision:**

Internal chart review

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