

Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW:

06/13/2007

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

Request for cervical physical therapy (PT) three times a week for four weeks of post injection physical therapy.

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

Board Certified Chiropractor

REVIEW OUTCOME

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

Upheld (Agree)

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.

The medical necessity for the application of the course of post injection therapy as requested is not established.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

- MCMC: Case Report dated 06/01/07
- MCMC Referral dated 06/01/07
- DWC: Notice to MCMC, LLC of Case Assignment dated 06/21/07
- Letter dated 06/04/07 from Medical Operations
- DWC: Notice of Assignment of Independent Review Organization dated 06/01/07
- DWC: Confirmation of Receipt Of a Request For a Review dated 05/31/07
- LHL009: Request For a Review By An Independent Review Organization dated 05/22/07
- Letter dated 05/22/07 from D.C.
- Letter dated 05/14/07 from Review Nurse
- Reports dated 04/27/07, 06/07/06 from Dr.
- M.D.: Procedure Note dated 04/25/07
- Imaging & Diagnostic Center: MRI cervical spine dated 08/24/06
- Undated listing of Providers with demographic information

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

Records indicate that the above captioned individual is a male who reported the occurrence of an occupational incident that allegedly occurred on xx/xx/xx. The history reveals that a co-worker threw a bag of concrete, which hit the injured individual in the chest and knocked him to the ground. He was initially treated by the company doctor but eventually requested a change of treating doctors and presented to the office of the current attending physician (AP), Dr. on 06/07/2006 complaining of neck, mid back and low back pain. There was also some upper and lower extremity complaints. A course of chiropractic and physical therapy was initiated. A cervical MRI dated 08/24/2006 revealed the presence of congenital narrowing and multiple 1mm or less disc bulges. Nerve blocks were performed to the cervical spine on 04/27/2007. A course of post injection therapy has been requested.

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

The documentation fails to establish the medical necessity for the requested course of injection therapy. Specifically, the supplied and reviewed documentation indicates that the injured individual has participated in an exhaustive course of physical therapy, chiropractic management and medication management. However, the documentation does not unequivocally demonstrate that the injured individual has therapeutically benefited from the previously attended course of care. As such, there can be no reasonable expectations for any significant, progressive and lasting therapeutic gain in response to the requested course of care.

Moreover, the documentation does not specify the actual therapy requested (for example passive, active, aquatic). Post injection therapy programs can vary from provider to provider and the documentation supplied contains no specificity as to the actual treatment requested.

In light of the arguments raised in the above discussion, and consistent with the guidelines referenced above, the medical necessity for the application of the requested course of post injection therapy is not established.

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

MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS

ODG- OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES



managing care. managing claims.

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