

Envoy Medical Systems, LP
1726 Cricket Hollow
Austin, Texas 78758

PH. 512/248-9020
IRO Certificate #

Fax 512/491-5145

DATE OF REVIEW 5/16/07

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

Laminectomy, discectomy and fusion at L4-L5 with satellite system

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

M.D. Board Certified in Neurological Surgery

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)

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.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

Denial Letters

Office visit - M.D. 4/11/07

Lumbar MRI Report of 2/8/07, 11/3/04, 1/6/03, 8/23/00

Reports -M.D. 2002-2/14/07

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

This case involves a female who was injured when she slipped and fell. Conservative measures failed to help the patient. A diagnosis of L5-S1 shows a significant pathology that led to a 1993 L5-S1 discectomy and fusion. There was spondylolisthesis present at that level. That level has subsequently shown that the fusion is solid but despite that, continued pain led to the removal of hardware that had been placed which provided some help with her symptom of back pain. She was able to return to work following that and had only intermittent back discomfort. The record is not complete but the patient had a

MRI, probably for back and leg pain with a diagnosis of some possibly surgically significant changes at L4-5. She was able to return to work until 11/06 when pain once more became severe with extension from her back into the right lower extremity. Conservative measures did not help and a 2/8/07 MRI showed a change in L4-5 with disc rupture probably accounting for her symptoms. Once again the L5-S1 level below this disc rupture level showed solid fusion without any surgically correctable pathology. Symptoms persist and it is not thought that injections, which have been pursued in the past without significant benefit, would be any benefit in this case and a surgical procedure consisting of discectomy and fusion at the L4-5 level has been recommended.

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

I disagree with the denial of the proposed post-operative procedures. The patient has progressive changes on MRI evaluation at the proposed surgical level. In addition, she has findings upon examination compatible with pressure on the L5 nerve root at the level of the proposed surgery. The previous fusion did not take the pressure off the levels above. The proposed fusion device may do so and the use of such a device is indicated. A one level decompression and fusion with possible instrumentation at L4-5 is appropriate for this patient.

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 JUDGMENT, 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)**