

# US Resolutions Inc.

*An Independent Review Organization*

71 Court Street

Belfast, Maine 04915

## Notice of Independent Review Decision

**DATE OF REVIEW: AUGUST 19, 2008**

**IRO CASE #:**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE**

Right Total Knee Arthroplasty

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

MD, Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon

**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.

The reviewer finds that medical necessity exists for Right Total Knee Arthroplasty.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW**

Adverse Determination Notices, 7/25/08, 7/16/08

ODG Guidelines and Treatment Guidelines

MD, 8/4/08, 6/9/08, 5/21/08

Orthopedic, 4/2/08, 5/24/07

MD, 1/9/08

Operative Report, 9/14/07

MD, 5/15/07

MRI, 4/5/07

Clinic, 6/28/07

Diagnostics, 8/4/08, 6/9/08, 5/21/08

X-Ray, 5/28/08

### **PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:**

This is an injured worker who has had a previous left total knee replacement from which she has done well. She has undergone injections, physical therapy, and a previous knee arthroscopy. She was injured on xx/xx/xx. She has an MRI scan, which initially showed a horizontal grade 3 tear and also an MRI scan, which revealed a grade 2/3 and also grade 4 changes to the articular cartilage on the medial side. She has had injections without improvement. She had a total knee replacement denied based on her body mass index but she has, in fact, lost significant weight in the interim. Reportedly, based upon the medical records, she is well from her left total knee replacement. Current recommendation is for right total knee replacement.

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

While the previous reviewers have rightfully noted that this patient meets all criteria based on ODG Guidelines for a total knee replacement other than body mass index, she has, in fact, done well from the previous left total knee replacement. She does not have indications from the medical records of exaggerated pain manifestations and has not had an unusual course post meniscectomy other than for not improving. Given the radiologist's documentation of grade 4 changes on the medial condyle and her meeting all the other inclusion criteria based on ODG Guidelines, and also her significant weight loss recently, the reviewer agrees with the treating physician as to medical necessity of this particular procedure, notwithstanding the absence of strict conformity to the body mass index noted in the ODG Treatment Guidelines. The reviewer finds that medical necessity exists for Right Total Knee Arthroplasty.

### **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 KNOWLEDGBASE
- 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)**