



Medical Review Institute of America, Inc.  
America's External Review Network

AMENDED: JANUARY 16, 2008

DATE OF REVIEW: January 16, 2008

IRO Case #:

**Description of the services in dispute:**

Medications

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

The physician who provided this review is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. This reviewer is a member of the American Orthopaedic Society, the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Disability Evaluating Physicians. This reviewer has been in active practice since 1976.

**Review Outcome**

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

Overtured

The medications that this patient is currently taking are medically necessary and appropriate.

**Information provided to the IRO for review**

MRIoA forms

TDI assignment forms – request for IRO

MD, ltr to, undated

Multiple EOB's and TWCC forms

Services records

Orthopedics – multiple records, DO, 11/01/04 – 9/17/07 (46 separate records)

Spine and Sports Ctr, , DC, multiple records 01/23/04 – 11/04/04 (4 separate records)

Pain Ctrs 4/14/05

Health Associates, , MA, multiple records, 5/10/05 – 10/17/05 (5 separate records)

DC, 4/19/05 – 10/12/05 (4 separate records)

MD, 5/12/05

TWCC ltr to Dr. 2/11/05

Counseling Services, 11/7/05 – 6/22/06 (3 records)  
RX – DME 4/26/06  
Imaging MRI left knee 3/9/06  
MD, IME evaluation 7/25/06  
Diagnostic Ctr US studies 10/12/06, left leg, 11/14/06

**Patient clinical history [summary]**

This now xx year old male suffers bilateral post traumatic knee osteoarthritis with two separate dates of injury. The first xx/xx/xx involves a right knee injury and the second xx/xx/xx involves the left knee. Apparently, the patient underwent arthroscopic surgery of the left knee on 1/20/02. The medical records reviewed involve medical care provided after 1/23/04 and are a mixture of records related to symptoms present in the left knee and the right knee. The patient appears to suffer acute flares of symptoms related to weather changes. He is totally disabled for employment purposes, utilizes a cane for ambulation assistance, and takes Motrin 800mg intermittently and Vicodin 7.5mg. Apparently, both medications are taken at less than full dosage frequency. He utilizes a TENS unit and lidoderm patch for left knee pain. The patient has been advised total knee arthroplasty, most likely on a bilateral basis. He has elected not to pursue this therapeutic surgical approach, preferring rather to continue medications.

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

The medications that this patient is currently taking are medically necessary and appropriate to relieve symptoms produced by the basic pathologic process that he suffers, osteoarthritis of both knees. This statement includes the TENS unit, the lidoderm patch and the velcro knee support. This process, osteoarthritis of knees, is one which is chronic, produces chronic symptoms with periodic exacerbations. This patient suffered a twisting injury of the left knee xx/xx/xx and underwent arthroscopic surgery in 1/02. There are no medical records of the post operative care provided to this patient. It is assumed he had a reasonably asymptomatic period after the arthroscopic procedure suggesting that the symptoms produced by the acute episode had resolved. However, the medications and the therapeutic maneuvers that this patient utilizes to achieve relief are medically necessary and appropriate for the treatment of the basic pathology – not for the symptoms produced by an acute trauma in xx/xx.

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

Practical Rheumatology, John H Klippel and Paul A Dieppe, Mosby, 1995, pgs 150 – 155

1350529.1

lb