True Decisions Inc.

An Independent Review Organization
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Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: 07/24/2008

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE
Lumbar Myelogram & CT Scan with 23 hours of Observation

A DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION
MD, Board Certified in Neurosurgery

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)

Lumbar Myelogram & CT Scan are medically necessary.
23 hours of observation are not medically necessary.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW
OD Guidelines
Denial Letters 6/12/08 and 7/3/08
Medical Records from Dr. : 6/5/08, 6/18/08, 7/2/08
MRI 5/15/08
Lumbar Spine 4/18/08

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:
This is a male with a date of injury xx/xx/xx when he was bending down to pick up a hose on the ground. He complains of back pain, radiating to the right leg. He has a

positive straight-leg raising on the right. .MRI of the lumbar spine reveals central stenosis at L4-L5 and moderate right-sided foraminal stenosis at L5-S1. Other levels have degenerative changes, as well. The provider cannot determine which, if any, of these levels is responsible for the symptoms. He also feels that a myelogram should have a 23 hour observation due to the increased risk of seizures after such a procedure. The provider is recommending a lumbar myelogram and CT scan with a 23 hour observation

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

The cervical myelogram and CT is medically necessary, but the 23 hour inpatient stay is not; therefore, the request, as a whole, is not medically necessary. According to the ODG, myelogram is indicated. "CT Myelography OK if MRI unavailable, contraindicated (e.g. metallic foreign body), or inconclusive". In this case, the MRI is inconclusive as to the symptomatic level, given the multi-level degenerative changes in the lumbar spine. Therefore, the imaging study is medically necessary in order to help understand this patient's clinical condition. However, a 23 hour observation is not the standard. Post-myelogram seizures are a known complication, but occur less than 1% of the time. 23 hour observation is not routinely done for a myelogram and is therefore not medically necessary.

References/Guidelines

2008 *Official Disability Guidelines,* 13th edition
"Low Back" chapter

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 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)**