



DATE OF REVIEW: July 22, 2008

IRO Case #:

Description of the services in dispute:

Lumbar ESI L1-2, L2-3, L3-4, RFTC, right and left.

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 completed a fellowship in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery. This reviewer is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America. This reviewer has been in active practice since 2000.

Review Outcome

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

Upheld

ESI's and RFTC are not medically necessary based on ODG criteria.

Patient clinical history [summary]

The patient is a xx year old female with chronic back pain (presumed to be related to a back injury sustained in xxxx) is recommended to undergo a new series of ESI's and RFTC. She has had these procedures in the past and has never regained any significant function or reported any significant pain relief lasting longer than a few days. The patient has never had any objective signs of radiculopathy, nor clinically significant spine disease on either examination or imaging. The patient has inexplicably undergone serial dynamic motion x-rays many times by , without any contribution to her care or mention of the results in clinical notes. The patient has returned to numerous doctors on a regular basis for refills of narcotic pain medication for chronic pain for at least the past seven years. The patient has not been documented to have participated in any kind of formal physical therapy or work hardening program in the review materials provided. The new request for ESI's and RFTC has been denied by two Board Certified Reviewers and is now further appealed by

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

ESI's and RFTC are not medically necessary. ODG criteria restrict the usage of ESI's to patients with objective signs of radiculopathy, which the patient does not have. RFTC is under study, according to ODG, and therefore not medically necessary. Additionally, Dr. performed these procedures in December, 2006 and documented poor response at that time.

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

ODG, Low Back, Epidural steroid injections (ESIs), therapeutic

ODG, Low Back, Facet joint radiofrequency neurotomy

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