

Parker Healthcare Management Organization, Inc.

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Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: JULY 15, 2008

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

Medical necessity of proposed left carpal tunnel release and left ulnar nerve transposition (64721)

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

This case was reviewed by a Medical Doctor licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. The reviewer specializes in orthopedic surgery and is engaged in the full time practice of medicine.

REVIEW OUTCOME

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

- Upheld (Agree) (Disagree)
- Overturned (Disagree)
- Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

Primary Diagnosis	Service being Denied	Billing Modifier	Type of Review	Units	Date(s) of Service	Amount Billed	Date of Injury	DWC Claim#	IRO Decision
723.4	64721		Prosp	1					Overturned

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

This patient sustained a work related on the job injury on xx/xx/xx.

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDE CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION. IF THERE WAS ANY DIVERGENCE FROM DWC'S POLICIES/GUIDLEINES OR THE NETWORK'S TREATMENT GUIDELINES, THEN INDICATE BELOW WITH EXPLANATION.

The treatment of ulnar nerve problems including cubital tunnel syndrome and tardive ulnar nerve palsy is such that non-operative treatment rarely is successful in modifying the natural history of the disorder. It tends to be relentlessly progressive, therefore surgery is indicated. While the carpel tunnel release can be temporized, it is medically indicated.

A DESCRIPTION AND THE SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE THE DECISION:

XX MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS

XX ODG- OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES WERE REVIEWED FOR RELEVANCE

XX PEER REVIEWED NATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL LITERATURE

1. Diagnosis and Treatment of Tardy Paralysis of the Ulnar Nerve. James R. Gay and J. Grafton Love. *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. (American)* 1947; 29:1087-1097.
2. The Ulnar Nerve and Elbow Trauma. Robert Shin, M.D. and David Reem, M.D. *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* 2007; 89:1108-1116.