



## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**DATE OF REVIEW:** 07/06/08

**IRO CASE #:**

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

Lumbar back brace.

**DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:**

M.D., Family Practice physician, board certified by the American Board of Family Practice.

**REVIEW OUTCOME:**

“Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be (check only one):

Upheld (Agree)

Overturned (Disagree)

Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

I feel that there is true medical necessity for the purchase and use of a lumbar back brace in this particular case. The ODG was not of use in this unusual type of case and medical judgment was utilized.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:**

1. TDI referral papers
2. Prior IRO papers
3. URA records
4. Medical records of Dr.
5. Information regarding the price and use of the back brace in question

The records I have reviewed date from 07/05 to 05/08.

**INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):**

This is a man who has had a prior cervical and lumbar spine surgery following an on-the-job injury. The neck injury occurred in xx/xx, and I am uncertain when the low back

injury occurred. He has been diagnosed with a post laminectomy syndrome, both cervical and lumbar. He continues to have symptoms and has exhausted all conservative means of care and aggressive means of care. It has been determined that he is no longer a surgical candidate, and he has been on multiple medications.

**ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION, INCLUDING CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT DECISION:**

This patient has significant symptoms after a failed surgical attempt at improvement. He has tried multiple medications and requires daily treatment. At this time because he has no further medical or surgical options to him or improvement in his symptomatic condition, there is the significant possibility that his symptoms will be improved to a moderate degree by use of a back brace. Despite the citation of a prior reviewer indicating certain medical article that does not support the use of back brace for chronic pain, there are many cases where such bracing does help. There also is a placebo effect that does occur in many patients from just a use of a back brace. It is very likely that this patient will experience at least a 10% improvement in his symptomatology based on the support rendered by the back brace and based on the effect of having had something done to help him (the placebo effect). Apart from the placebo effect, the support will give him probably at least a 10% improvement. This will translate into significant dollars in savings for future medication usage, future physician office visits, and future x-rays and physical therapy. The amount of money spent on this brace (approximately \$1000) will be far, far less than the amount of money that will be saved by this at least 10% reduction in symptomatology and usage of medical care, medications, x-rays, and doctor visits. The patient at this time has no further options.

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

*(Check any of the following that were used in the course of your review.)*

- 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 judgment, 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 national accepted medical literature (provide a description).

\_\_\_\_\_ Other evidence-based, scientifically valid, outcome-focused guidelines (provide a description.)