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**Notice of Independent Review Decision**

**DATE OF REVIEW:** 06/27/2008

**IRO CASE #:**

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

Botox Cervical Spine Muscles Injection

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

This case was reviewed by a Texas licensed MD, specializing in Orthopedic Surgery. The physician advisor has the following additional qualifications, if applicable:

ABMS Orthopaedic Surgery

**REVIEW OUTCOME:**

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

Upheld

Health Care Service(s) in Dispute	CPT Codes	Date of Service(s)	Outcome of Independent Review
Botox Cervical Spine Muscles Injection	64613	-	Upheld

**PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY (SUMMARY):**

was injured on xx/xx/xx. A request has been submitted by Dr. for Botox for cervical spine injections. The submitted request seems to be an appeal of a previously non-approved but submitted report for Botox injections. Some 100 pages of medical information were reviewed which suggest this patient is a failed surgical spine patient with chronic neck pain. Most recent clinical notes dated May, 2008 note continued neck pain throughout her neck and upper back. Reference to grandchild care is noted in these clinical notes.

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

Given the modicum of information provided, I would offer Botox is at least being used off-label. Evidence based medicine as noted, does not approve its use in this manner for chronic myofascial pain. As submitted, I would offer that the requested services are not medically necessary.

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

ODG

The current online version of ODG notes: DG Botulinum toxin (Botox) Not recommended. Paravertebral administration of botulinum toxin A in patients with chronic low back pain may relieve pain and improve function. Initial data from small trials suggest that botulinum toxin is effective, alleviating back pain in

selected patients. On the basis of these promising results, additional study in larger trials is warranted. If approved, the number of injections should be limited to one, followed by exercise. (Foster, 2001) (Difazio, 2002) (Lang, 2004) A number of studies have evaluated the effectiveness of botulinum toxin type A in the treatment of back and neck pain, and the manufacturer is planning on pursuing FDA approval of botulinum toxin for this indication, but there is currently insufficient scientific evidence of the effectiveness of botulinum toxin in the treatment of back pain. (Aetna, 2005) (Blue Cross Blue Shield, 2005).