

P-IRO Inc.

An Independent Review Organization

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Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: April 7, 2008

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

Occupational Therapy 3 X wk X 4 wks for the left shoulder

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

Doctor of Medicine (M.D.)

Board Certified in Orthopaedic Surgery

Fellowship Training in Hand & Upper Extremity Surgery

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)

Provide a description of the review outcome that clearly states whether or not medical necessity exists for each of the health care services in dispute.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

OD Guidelines

Denial Letters 2/25/08 and 3/04/08

Records from Dr. 10/18/07

Records from Ortho Group 2/14/08 and 2/18/08

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The patient apparently underwent an arthroscopic acromioplasty and biceps tenodesis. The patient has had 30 post-op therapy visits and is doing quite well. He is having some stiffness and an FCE has been performed. There is no record of this FCE or a work hardening program. The physical examination does not suggest adhesive capsulitis. More PT has been requested.

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

This patient does meet the ODG criteria for continued physical therapy. The requesting MD has not supplied any documentation or rationale to explain why a home exercise program would not suffice at this time.

Physical therapy	<p>Recommended. Positive (limited evidence). See also specific physical therapy modalities by name. Use of a home pulley system for stretching and strengthening should be recommended. (Thomas, 2001) For rotator cuff disorders, physical therapy can improve short-term recovery and long-term function. For rotator cuff pain with an intact tendon, a trial of 3 to 6 months of conservative therapy is reasonable before orthopaedic referral. Patients with small tears of the rotator cuff may be referred to an orthopaedist after 6 to 12 weeks of conservative treatment. The mainstays of treatment for instability of the glenohumeral joint are modification of physical activity and an aggressive strengthening program. Osteoarthritis of the glenohumeral joint usually responds to analgesics and injections into the glenohumeral joint. However, aggressive physical therapy can actually exacerbate this condition because of a high incidence of joint incongruity. (Burbank, 2008)</p> <p><i>Impingement syndrome:</i> For impingement syndrome significant results were found in pain reduction and isodynamic strength. (Bang, 2000) (Verhagen-Cochrane, 2004) (Michener, 2004) Self-training may be as effective as physical therapist-supervised rehabilitation of the shoulder in post-surgical treatment of patients treated with arthroscopic subacromial decompression. (Anderson, 1999) A recent structured review of physical rehabilitation techniques for patients with subacromial impingement syndrome found that therapeutic exercise was the most widely studied form of physical intervention and demonstrated short-term and long-term effectiveness for decreasing pain and reducing functional loss. Upper quarter joint mobilizations in combination with therapeutic exercise were more effective than exercise alone. Laser therapy is an effective single intervention when compared with placebo treatments, but adding laser treatment to therapeutic exercise did not improve treatment efficacy. The limited data available do not support the use of ultrasound as an effective treatment for reducing pain or functional loss. Two studies evaluating the effectiveness of acupuncture produced equivocal results. (Sauers, 2005)</p> <p><i>Rotator cuff:</i> There is poor data from non-controlled open studies favouring conservative interventions for rotator cuff tears, but this still needs to be proved. Considering these interventions are less invasive and less expensive than the surgical approach, they could be the first choice for the rotator cuff tears, until we have better and more reliable results from clinical trials. (Ejnisman-Cochrane, 2004)</p> <p><i>Adhesive capsulitis:</i> For adhesive capsulitis, injection of corticosteroid combined with a simple home exercise program is effective in improving shoulder pain and disability in patients. Adding supervised physical therapy provides faster improvement in shoulder range of motion. When used alone, supervised physical therapy is of limited efficacy in the</p>
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management of adhesive capsulitis. ([Carette, 2003](#)) Physical therapy following arthrographic joint distension for adhesive capsulitis provided no additional benefits in terms of pain, function, or quality of life but resulted in sustained greater active range of shoulder movement and participant-perceived improvement up to 6 months. ([Buchbinder, 2007](#)) Physical modalities, such as massage, diathermy, cutaneous laser treatment, ultrasonography, transcutaneous electrical neurostimulation (TENS) units, and biofeedback are not supported by high quality medical studies, but they may be useful in the initial conservative treatment of acute shoulder symptoms, depending on the experience of local physical therapists available for referral.

ODG Physical Therapy Guidelines –

Allow for fading of treatment frequency (from up to 3 visits per week to 1 or less), plus active self-directed home PT. Also see other general guidelines that apply to all conditions under Physical Therapy in the [ODG Preface](#).

Rotator cuff syndrome/Impingement syndrome (ICD9 726.1; 726.12):

Medical treatment: 10 visits over 8 weeks

Post-injection treatment: 1-2 visits over 1 week

Post-surgical treatment, arthroscopic: 24 visits over 14 weeks

Post-surgical treatment, open: 30 visits over 18 weeks

Complete rupture of rotator cuff (ICD9 727.61; 727.6)

Post-surgical treatment: 40 visits over 16 weeks

Adhesive capsulitis (IC9 726.0):

Medical treatment: 16 visits over 8 weeks

Post-surgical treatment: 24 visits over 14 weeks

Dislocation of shoulder (ICD9 831):

Medical treatment: 12 visits over 12 weeks

Post-surgical treatment (Bankart): 24 visits over 14 weeks

Acromioclavicular joint dislocation (ICD9 831.04):

AC separation, type III+: 8 visits over 8 weeks

Sprained shoulder; rotator cuff (ICD9 840; 840.4):

Medical treatment: 10 visits over 8 weeks

Post-surgical treatment (RC repair/acromioplasty): 24 visits over 14 weeks

Arthritis (Osteoarthritis; Rheumatoid arthritis; Arthropathy, unspecified) (ICD9 714.0; 715; 715.9; 716.9)

Medical treatment: 9 visits over 8 weeks

Post-injection treatment: 1-2 visits over 1 week

Post-surgical treatment, arthroplasty, shoulder: 24 visits over 10 weeks

Brachial plexus lesions (Thoracic outlet syndrome) (ICD9 353.0):

Medical treatment: 14 visits over 6 weeks

Post-surgical treatment: 20 visits over 10 weeks

Fracture of clavicle (ICD9 810):

8 visits over 10 weeks

Fracture of humerus (ICD9 812):

Medical treatment: 18 visits over 12 weeks

Post-surgical treatment: 24 visits over 14 weeks

Work conditioning (See also [Procedure Summary](#) entry):

10 visits over 8 weeks

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)**