



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATES

Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: 03/12/08

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

Work conditioning program five times a week for two weeks (97545-WC, 97546-WC)

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

Board Certified in Orthopedic 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.

Work conditioning program five times a week for two weeks (97545-WC, 97546-WC) - Upheld

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

An MRI of the thoracic spine interpreted by M.D. dated 11/29/07
Evaluations with M.D. dated 12/14/07, 12/28/07, 01/11/08, and 02/01/08
A Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) with O.T.R. dated 01/03/08
A letter of denial from M.D. dated 01/25/08
Letters of denial from Inc., according to the ODG, dated 01/28/08 and 02/08/08
A DWC-73 form from Dr. dated 02/01/08
A letter of denial from M.D. dated 02/07/08
A letter from at Attorneys at Law dated 02/26/08
The ODG Guidelines were provided by the carrier

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY

An MRI of the thoracic spine interpreted by Dr. on 11/29/07 revealed only spondylosis. On 12/14/07, Dr. recommended an FCE, a home exercise program, Celebrex, and Ketoprofen cream. An FCE with on 01/03/08 revealed the patient was able to return to work to full duty, though a work conditioning program was recommended. On 01/11/08, Dr. recommended a work conditioning program for two weeks. On 01/25/08, Dr. wrote a letter of denial for work conditioning. On 01/28/08 and 02/08/08, Inc. wrote letters of denial for work conditioning. On 02/01/08, Dr. recommended a return to full work duty. On 02/07/08, Dr. also wrote a letter of denial for a work conditioning program.

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

There is no objective evidence of injury. The objective testing results are normal for her age. There are no neurological findings. She has no abnormal physical findings in regard to her hand, other than some mild arthritis consistent with her age.

The criteria for admission to a work conditioning program, according to the ODG indicated that the worker must be able to benefit from the program. In this instance, without objective evidence of injury, it is certainly unclear that the patient would benefit from the program. The patient failed to meet all the criteria suggested by the ODG and I do not believe it is reasonable or necessary for the patient to undergo work conditioning five times a week for two weeks (97545-WC, 97546-WCC).

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 AND KNOWLEDGE BASE**

- 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)**

DWC Intergraded Treatment/Disability Duration Guidelines, Low Back-Lumbar and Thoracic (Acute & Chronic)