

REVIEWER'S REPORT

DATE OF REVIEW: 10/26/08

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:
 Ankle arthroscopy, Brostron reconstruction, peroneal tendon debridement.

DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:
 M.D., board certified orthopedic surgeon.

REVIEW OUTCOME:
 Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be:

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

<i>Primary Diagnosis Code</i>	<i>Service Being Denied</i>	<i>Billing Modifier</i>	<i>Type of Review</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Date(s) of Service</i>	<i>Amount Billed</i>	<i>Date of Injury</i>	<i>DWC Claim #</i>	<i>Upheld Overturn</i>
727.06	29898		Prosp.		08/25-08/25/08				Overturn
727.06	27695		Prosp.		08/25-08/25/08				Overturn
727.06	27680		Prosp.		08/25-08/25/08				Overturn
727.06	29898		Prosp.		09/11-09/11/08				Overturn
727.06	27695		Prosp.		09/11-09/11/08				Overturn
727.06	27680		Prosp.		09/11-09/11/08				Overturn

INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:

1. TDI case assignment
2. Letters of denial 08/28 & 09/18/2008, including criteria used in the denial (ODG)
3. Orthopedic surgeon's correspondence and exam notes 04/11/ - 09/05/2008
4. Radiology reports 02/15 - 08/11/2008
5. Operative report - right knee arthroscopy w/medial partial meniscectomy and chondroplasty of the patellofemoral joint.

INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):

This patient had an injury on xx/xx/xx. At that time he fell off a ladder, injuring his right knee, right foot, right ankle, and left foot to some degree. An initial MRI scan reportedly showed a tear of the right medial meniscus. MRI scan of the right ankle is being interpreted as a grade 1/2 tear of the anterior and posterior tibiotalar ligaments and grade 1 tear of the anterior talofibular ligament. The patient also had a diagnosis of a non-displaced calcaneal fracture, which apparently went on to resolve. Because the patient continued to have problems with his knee, an arthroscopy was done on his knee. As best as I can tell, that eventually resolved. His ongoing problem is his right foot and ankle. The treating physician dictated that stress views were positive for opening and that he felt he had both a laxity of his ankle ligaments and peroneal tendinitis, and at one point in time a plantar fasciitis, although I think this also resolved. The patient was apparently treated initially with a boot then mobilization, physical therapy, injection, etc. Over a period of time apparently the patient did not progress satisfactorily, and therefore consideration of surgery was done.

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

It would appear to me that the patient had an extensive period of non-operative conservative care. While it has been my experience that many individuals can live with the injury I interpret this person to have had, it appears in this case that he continues to have significant difficulty. I do think it is reasonable to proceed with ankle arthroscopy, Brostron reconstruction and peroneal tendon debridement.

DESCRIPTION AND SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE YOUR 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 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.)
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