



Specialty Independent Review Organization

**Notice of Independent Review Decision**

**DATE OF REVIEW:** 10/14/08

**IRO CASE #:**

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

The services under review include an arthrodesis, anterior interbody technique, including minimal discectomy to prepare interspace (other than for decompression) lumbar.

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

The reviewer is a board certified orthopedic surgeon with greater than 15 years of experience in this field.

**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)

The reviewer disagrees with the previous adverse determination regarding the requested services in all its parts.

**INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW**

Records were received and reviewed from the following parties:  
, , MD and Utilization Review.

These records consist of the following (duplicate records are only listed from one source): : 12/27/07 lumbar MRI, 4/18/07 through 9/4/08 notes by , MD, 6/6/07 through 8/8/08 procedure notes and operative report of 5/30/08.

Dr. : 8/22/08 request for preauth report, Psych eval , . 6/27/08 and Dr. chart notes 2/27/08 to 6/11/08.

: letter by 9/26/08, 8/26/08 denial letter, 9/9/08 denial letter, 8/26/08 letter by , 9/8/08 denial letter by , 6/30/06 and 1/10/08 reports by , MD and 2/27/08 radiology report lumbar.

We did not receive an ODG Guidelines from Carrier/URA.

**PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:**

This xx year old female complains of low back pain with radiation over the left lateral thigh and calf. Pain is made worse with activity. Patient was injured at work when she was restocking an end cap when it fell, landing on her. She suffered immediate pain in her low back with radiation to the lower extremities. For the last xx years the patient has been treated extensively with conservative care which has only provided temporary relief.

Conservative care has consisted of a series of ESIs, physical therapy, and multiple medications. The physical examination reveals tenderness at the lumbosacral junction. Hyperextension and lateral bending increases the symptoms. Straight leg raise is positive on the left. There is decreased sensation of the left L5 nerve root. Patient ambulates with a limping gait. The MRI 12/27/2007 reveals a degenerative disc at L5-S1 with a PNP and narrowing of the lateral recesses bilaterally.

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

This xx year old female was injured xx years ago and has pain and left leg numbness that has not responded to conservative care. Patient fits Milliman Guidelines with moderate lumbar stenosis. Patient also has clinical and imaging evidence of a lesion along with failed conservative care which are criteria for ODG surgery of the lumbar spine.

**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)