

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON
Apr/23/2009

Independent Resolutions Inc.

An Independent Review Organization
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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:

Apr/13/2009

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Cervical Right C6 stellate ganglion block

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

Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Subspecialty Board Certified in Pain Management
Subspecialty Board Certified in Electrodiagnostic Medicine
Residency Training PMR and ORTHOPAEDIC 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)

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

OD Guidelines
Denial Letters 2/23/09 and 3/4/09
PBI 2/23/09 and 3/2/09
Dr. 12/12/08 thru 4/2/09
Report Medical Eval 11/25/08

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This is a woman apparently injured on xx-xx-xx where she apparently sustained an right finger fracture. She was able to get off Fentanyl after the insertion of a spinal cord stimulator 1/20/09. She reportedly was doing well and was off Fentanyl. She underwent an IV stick on 2/19 that caused a flare up of the RSD. She improved on steroids, but the pain returned when these were stopped. There is a request for a new stellate block to control the pain.

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

The issue is whether a stellate sympathetic block can be given and will it help someone with

CPRD. This is not answered in the ODG. Rather, RSD can be treated with the spinal stimulator and the diagnosis and perhaps treatment with the stellate blocks. Further, the existence of RSD is controversial. The Reviewers initial leaning is to deny the approval due to these issues. On the alternate side, Spinal cord stimulation does not guarantee a successful outcome. The consequences of RSD/CRPD are quite severe and she previously improved with the stimulator. Surgery in the RSD/CRPD involved limb was felt to risk an exacerbation of the disorder. The IV may have triggered it. As a result, the Reviewer's medical assessment is that the single stellate block will help the condition.

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

ACOEM-AMERICA 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 ERVIEWED NATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL LITERATURE (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)

OTHER EVIDENCE BASED, SCIENTIFICALLY VALID, OUTCOME FOCUSED GUIDELINES (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)