

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON
Apr/27/2009

Applied Assessments LLC

An Independent Review Organization

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DATE OF REVIEW:

Apr/23/2009

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Work Hardening 5 X 2 bilateral shoulders

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

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This is an female injured while working on xx/xx/xx. She was found to have a rith rotator cuff tear and a left shoulder tendinosis. She underwent a right shoulder rotator duff repair and decompression on 7/1/08. Electrodiagnostic studies on 10/20/08 showed carpal tunnel syndrome, and right ulnar motor neuropathy. She reportedly had some mood issues and received both psychotherapy and physical therapy. She completed a 10-day work hardening program, and an additional 10 days was requested. This was to improve her coping skills.

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDING CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS

AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION

The issue is whether this lady needs and meets the requirements for the additional 10 sessions of work hardening or not. It is not whether she should be in work hardening. This was previously decided.

Mr. reported that "she made good progress, she continues to note some psychological overlay." Her FCE (2/11/09) described some improved function in strength, and ranges of motion. She was at a light-medium level of function and her job requires a medium level of function. A prior reviewer noted that she had been terminated from her job. The response to this was that she would be offered an opportunity to reapply for her job.

One argument presented is whether she needs the additional therapies. She has been improving. The FCE and the psychological assessment showed all positive gains. (Criteria 9). She is not quite at the medium functional level needed for her prior job. The other is whether she has a job to return to. Strictly following the ODG would mean that since she does not have a current job, she does not require the additional work hardening program. There was material provided to show that there are jobs available. Technically, this is not the same as having the same or specified job to return to (Criteria 5). Yet, the ODG cites "The publications are guidelines, not inflexible prescriptions and they should not be used as sole evidence for an absolute standard of care. Guidelines can assist in making decisions for specific conditions...but they cannot take into account the uniqueness of each patient's clinical circumstances." (ODG copyright page). Therefore, if the ultimate goal is to return her to appropriate gainful employment, then the treatment program is appropriate.

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)