

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON  
Feb/23/2009

## Applied Resolutions LLC

An Independent Review Organization  
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### NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

**DATE OF REVIEW:** Feb/18/2009

**IRO CASE #:**

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

Purchase of handicap ramp

**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 12/24/08 and 1/5/09

FCE 1/14/09

Records from 8/25/08 thru 1/14/09

OP Report 9/11/08

**PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY**

This is a xx year old man injured in xxxx. He subsequently underwent multiple back operations including a fusion. He was considered for a trial for an intrathecal morphine pump with the catheter inserted in September 2008. He has diabetes. He had prior arthroscopic knee surgery. He reportedly fell several times in the fall. He apparently has 6 steps in the front and 3 in the back. There are none in the house. He fell and wants a handicapped ramp. "He is having an increasingly difficult time climbing up the stairs. He has no steps within his house. ...Both the knee and back pain interfere with his ability to climb steps." He complained of weakness. Exam described "no focal weakness" in both le. RN for Dr (12/15/08). He generally uses a cane. The FCE performed on 1/14/09 reported that he was able to walk with a single point cane, but became unsteady without it. Further, it described that he groaned

during the climbing component, but there was no report of his legs giving way. He was obviously deconditioned. The 1/14/09 note describes that he fell because his legs were weak, but otherwise, he is not sure why he fell.

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

There is no section of the ODG that applies to a ramp.

The falls developed after the morphine pump was implanted. The reason is not clear. The physical examinations did not describe a specific weakness that would cause him to fall. It is possible there are some unrecognized proprioceptive issues from a diabetic neuropathy. He was able to climb in the FCE for the minute tested, but was obviously deconditioned and physically taxed. There was nothing describing why he suddenly would become weak and fall. The FCE described his gait as becoming unsteady when he did not use his cane. The Reviewer does not know if the stairs had a handrail to substitute for the cane or not. The crawling component of the FCE stated he needed a chair for the floor transfers. The Reviewer would need to know if he had a handrail on the stairs or not before approving the need for a ramp and without that information, the request is not medically necessary.

**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 REVIEWED NATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL LITERATURE (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)

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