



**DATE OF REVIEW:** 05/19/09

**IRO CASE #:**

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

Total knee arthroplasty, computer-assisted surgical navigation, and three-day inpatient length of stay.

**DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:**

M.D., board certified orthopedic surgeon with extensive experience in the evaluation and treatment of patients suffering posttraumatic arthritis

**REVIEW OUTCOME:**

“Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be (check only one):

Upheld (Agree)

Overturned (Disagree)

Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

**INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:**

1. TDI referral
2. URA findings, 3/24/09 to 4/6/09
3. MD, office notes, 3/2/1998 to 3/25/2009
4. Medical Center, operative notes, 6/21/2001
5. Imaging Center, MRI, Left Knee, 5/7/01
6. Imaging Center, MRI, Right Shoulder and Lumbar spine, 4/15/04.
7. PT Services, PT notes and IR, 12/13/2001
8. Medical Center, operative notes, 2/26/1998 to 1/6/2000
9. Open MRI, Right Knee, 11/9/1999
10. Work Hardening, 4/18/2000 to 4/28/2000
11. Surgical Center, surgical notes, 6/3/2004
12. Medical Center, operative notes, 2/4/1998

**INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):**

This unfortunate male has suffered multiple injuries in the line of his work. He has dates of injury xx-xx-xx. Several of the injuries involved the patient’s right knee. He has

undergone two prior arthroscopic surgeries on this knee and now suffers tricompartmental traumatic arthritis. The patient has received a recommendation for total knee arthroplasty. This surgical recommendation has been submitted for preauthorization and denied; reconsideration was similarly denied. The patient stands 6'1" and weighs 325 pounds. His BMI is calculated to be 42.9 with a scale of very obese or morbidly obese greater than 30.

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

This patient has suffered numerous injuries to his knees, both shoulders, cervical spine, and lumbar spine in his occupation. He has undergone surgical procedures on the right knee on two occasions and the right shoulder. He has undergone a number of physical therapy programs, work hardening programs, and has been provided impairment ratings on a number of occasions. Similarly, he has undergone numerous functional capacity evaluations. The criteria for the performance of total knee arthroplasty within the workers' compensation system includes an admonition that the patient be at a BMI of 35 or less. This patient's BMI of 42.9 clearly places him in the morbidly obese category. Even the study which suggested that BMI might not be an indicator of diminished result after total knee arthroplasty included the admonition that this was not true for those patients who were morbidly obese. It is clear that this patient would be at high risk for diminished duration of a good result if such was achieved. The previous denial of the request to preauthorize the performance of this procedure was appropriate. Medical necessity criteria have not been met and the previous denials should be upheld.

**DESCRIPTION AND SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE YOUR DECISION:**

*(Check any of the following that were used in the course of your review.)*

- 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.)