

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON  
Nov/19/2009

## Independent Resolutions Inc.

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

**DATE OF REVIEW:**

Nov/16/2009

**IRO CASE #:**

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

1 Pair of Siemens Pure 700 Behind-The-Ear Hear Instruments

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

Clinical audiologist.

M.S. degree in audiology North Texas State University 1977

Licensed by the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association 1980-present

Fellow of the American Academy of Audiology

32 years experience practicing diagnostic audiology and hearing aid dispensing.

**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

An air conduction pure tone-hearing test performed 8-14-2009 by BC-HIS Licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser.

A letter from D.O. requesting a pair of Siemens Pure 700 Behind the ear hearing instruments dated 10-2-2009 with results of an otoscopic examination and a physical examination,

A denial letter dated 10-8-2009 from M.D.

A denial letter dated 9-29-2009 from M.D.

A denial letter dated 10-2-2009

## **PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY**

Employee works in a high noise factory. He reported hearing loss and tinnitus secondary to occupational exposure, with difficulty sleeping and communicating

He developed the hearing loss and tinnitus “over time.”

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

There are no records of any diagnostic hearing evaluations submitted. The testing submitted is not complete enough to diagnose the hearing loss as conductive or sensorineural. The DO who did the otoscopic examination stated in his report that the “Weber shows on the right air conduction greater than bone conduction. On the left bone conduction is greater than air conduction.” This indicates the possibility that the hearing loss is not sensorineural. There are no records submitted from a licensed diagnostic audiologist or from an ear specialist (otologist) showing that the hearing loss cannot be managed with medical or surgical treatment. There is insufficient diagnostic data to establish medical necessity

Hearing aids can benefit this employee but there is no evidence that the particular brand and model recommended are the best for the employee, should he be approved for hearing aids after appropriate audiological and otological evaluations have been obtained. He has not been given a hearing aid evaluation to determine which brand and model best improve his hearing. There are many less expensive digital state of the art hearing aids that the Reviewer believes would be of great benefit to improve his hearing loss.

## **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)