

MEDR X

791 Highway 77 North, Suite 501C-316 Waxahachie, TX 75165
Ph 972-825-7231 Fax 214-230-5816

Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: 11/2/2009

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

The item in dispute is the prospective medical necessity of a left foot reconstruction of Charcot foot (27870 & 20692).

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

The reviewer is a Medical Doctor who is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery. The reviewer refers for this type of examination on a frequent basis and has been practicing for greater than 10 years.

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)

The reviewer disagrees with the previous adverse determination regarding the prospective medical necessity of a left foot reconstruction of Charcot foot (27870 & 20692).

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The injured employee is a male with IDDM and diabetic neuropathy. He was injured when a table dropped on his foot at work. The injury resulted in a wound, an infection, a partial amputation, and now progressive deformity and Charcot changes. A request was made for left foot reconstruction.

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDE CLINICAL BASIS.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION.

Although the ODG recommends bracing only for Charcot foot, that treatment is inappropriate for this patient with at least two recently healed left foot ulcers, an equinus position and no active ankle dorsiflexion (foot drop). Charcot arthropathy of the foot and ankle is a complex disorder with no universally agreed upon evidence-based treatment protocols. Bracing would lead to an unacceptably high and anticipatable incidence of ulceration and probable limb loss in this patient.

The patient qualifies for ankle fusion per the ODG for traumatic arthritis secondary to on-the-job injury. This patient has used Orthotics, has persistent pain with attempted wt bearing, has malalignment, decreased range of motion and x-ray evidence of ankle arthritis.

ODG Indications for Surgery -- Ankle Fusion: Criteria for fusion (ankle, tarsal, metatarsal) to treat traumatic arthritis secondary to on-the-job injury to the affected joint:

- 1. Conservative Care:** Immobilization, which may include: Casting, bracing, shoe modification, or other orthotics. . PLUS:
- 2. Subjective Clinical Findings:** Pain including that which is aggravated by activity and weight-bearing. AND Relieved by Xylocaine injection. PLUS:
- 3. Objective Clinical Findings:** Malalignment. AND Decreased range of motion. PLUS:
- 4. Imaging Clinical Findings:** Positive x-ray confirming presence of: Loss of articular cartilage (arthritis). OR Bone deformity (hypertrophic spurring, sclerosis). OR Non- or malunion of a fracture. Supportive imaging could include: Bone scan (for arthritis only) to confirm localization. OR Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). OR Tomography.

These requirements are met; therefore, the procedure is approved as requested.

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

- 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 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)

Surgical Reconstruction of the Charcot Rearfoot and Ankle
Patrick R. Burns, Dane K. Wukich Clinics in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery - January 2008
(Vol. 25, Issue 1, Pages 95-120, DOI: 10.1016/j.cpm.2007.10.008)

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