

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON
Nov/02/2009

IRO Express Inc.

An Independent Review Organization

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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:

Oct/27/2009

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Work Conditioning for the Lumbar Spine

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 10/6/09 and 9/28/09

Dr. 7/6/09 thru 9/29/09

Health & Hospital 5/21/09 thru 6/25/09

4/29/09 thru 10/9/09

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This man was injured xx/xx/xx when he fell off a scaffold. He had multiple fractures of transverse processes and a T12 compression fracture. He also had a left parietal skull fracture, a subarachnoid hemorrhage and facial fractures, rib fractures and a pneumothorax. He was in the brain injury treatment program. He had a medium level PDL in his FCE in September, but his job requires a Heavy PDL. There was a note of work hardening in 7/09 by a reviewer, but I did not see that clearly documented in the records. The original request for work conditioning for 20 sessions was denied, and a subsequent request for 10 sessions was made.

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

The ODG discussion for work hardening is more than work conditioning. The discussion excludes sequential treatment of work hardening and work conditioning. The issue if there was work hardening in July becomes a factor. He is functioning well considering the extent of his injuries. The ODG does permit 10 sessions of work conditioning over 10 weeks as an option. He has been progressing and has the possibility of reaching the heavy PDL. He had the intervening surgery since July that would have set him back. He had major physical problems and appears to be improving. The request for 10 sessions of work conditioning appears reasonable and meets the ODG criteria.

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)