

Becket Systems

An Independent Review Organization
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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:

Aug/17/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Bilateral Lumbar Facet Medial Branch Blocks at the L4-L5 and L5-S1

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

M.D., Board Certified in Anesthesiology and Pain Management
American Board of Anesthesiologists

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

Official Disability Guidelines Treatment in Workers' Compensation, Chapter: Low Back
ESIS, 7/9/10, 6/28/10

P.C. 8/5/10

Health Summary 7/29/10

Pain Center 5/11/10, 6/2/10, 6/8/10, 6/15/10, 6/23/10,
6/16/10, 6/29/10, 5/19/10

Day and Night Clinic 5/5/10, 3/12/10

FCE 1/23/10

Imaging Center 9/10/09

Neurology and Neurophysiology Center 2/1/10
6/28/10, 7/8/10

M.D. 9/21/09 to 3/3/10

M.D. 2/5/10

M.D. 4/30/10

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This patient was injured when hit by a metal roof of a cart in the neck and head. The patient has complaints of "low back pain." Per the office visit note (DOS 7/23/10) "the patient reports that he had significant short-term benefit from the first diagnostic lumbar facet medial branch block." It was reported at this same visit that the patient received 75% relief for 1 day. Based on this response, the provider has recommended in one note a "second diagnostic block before considering radiofrequency ablation." In a peer review report dated 7/9/10, the reviewer recounts that he spoke with the patient's provider who indicated he was requesting an RFI of L4-5, L5-S1 medial branch, and not bilateral lumbar facet medial branch blocks.

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

According to the ODG, "One set of diagnostic medial branch blocks is required with a

response of $\geq 70\%$." In a peer review report dated 7/9/10, the reviewer notes that he spoke with the provider who indicated he was requesting an RFI of L4-5, L5-S1 medial branch, and not bilateral lumbar facet medial branch blocks. According to the ODG no more than one set of medial branch diagnostic blocks is recommended prior to facet neurotomy. Based on this information, a second diagnostic block is not indicated at this time. The reviewer finds that medical necessity does not exist for Bilateral Lumbar Facet Medial Branch Blocks at the L4-L5 and L5-S1.

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)