

Prime 400 LLC

An Independent Review Organization
240 Commercial Street, Suite D
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: (530) 554-4970
Fax: (530) 687-9015
Email: manager@prime400.com

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW: Feb/11/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE: 1 Purchase of a Pair of Digital Binaural Hearing Instruments

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

MD, Board Certified in Internal Medicine

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

ODG Guidelines and Treatment Guidelines, Hearing Aids

Adverse Determination Letters, 11/23/09, 1/14/10

Care 10/13/09

Hearing Tests 4/2/93

M.D. 6/21/93, 1/18/95

Audiometric Record 1/13/95, 6/6/96, 6/18/97, 2/21/93, 1/17/95, 2/22/96, 6/24/97, 9/10/02

Individual Hearing History 7/6/99, 8/24/98, 7/15/99, 9/1/99, 7/11/00, 7/31/01, 7/29/02, 9/10/02, 7/22/03, 6/30/04, 6/20/05, 6/21/06, 7/5/06, 7/2/07, 6/4/08

Occupational Medicine Clinic 7/5/06

Patient Information 8/24/09

Professional Hearing Centers 11/16/09

11/23/09, 1/14/10

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This patient has documented sensorineural hearing loss, worse at higher frequencies. This loss has been attributed to his work in noisy environments. He has been recommended for digital hearing aids.

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

I have reviewed the ODG concerning the use of hearing aids. This patient satisfies the ODG criteria for hearing aids. The question seems to be whether he needs digital versus analog devices. The ODG does not include literature supporting the use of analog aids over digital aids. While the digital technology is the most expensive, it allows for improvement in programmability, greater precision in fitting, management of loudness discomfort, control of acoustic feedback (whistling sounds), and noise reduction. Because digital hearing aids can process sound more selectively than an analog device and offer more options for the wearer, and because the ODG does not specifically recommend one device over the other, and

because the patient's provider has recommended the digital aids for his patient, the reviewer finds that medical necessity exists for the purchase of a Pair of Digital Binaural Hearing Instruments.

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)