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Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: 07/21/10

IRO CASE NO.:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Item in dispute: psychological testing (4 hours)

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

Texas Licensed Psychologist

REVIEW OUTCOME

Upon independent review, the reviewer finds that the previous adverse determination/adverse determination should be:

Denial Upheld

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

1. Initial behavioral medicine consultation by dated 05/04/10
2. Clinical note by Dr. dated 05/19/10
3. Prior review by Dr. dated 05/21/10
4. Letter of reconsideration by dated 06/11/10
5. Prior review by Dr. dated 06/17/10
6. Cover sheet and working documents
7. **Official Disability Guidelines**

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY (SUMMARY):

The employee is a female who sustained an injury on xx/xx/xx.

An initial behavioral medicine consultation by dated 05/04/10 reported the employee was injured secondary to lifting a dog that weighed approximately 80 pounds at work. The note reported the employee underwent a surgical intervention in November of 2009. The employee complained of 5/10 average daily pain with insomnia. The employee was noted to have a dysthymic mood. The employee was reported to have a BDI-II score of 8, a BAI score of 9, a FABQ-PA score of 19 and a FABQ-W score of 35. The employee was recommended for four additional hours of psychological testing to include the MMPI-2-RF.

A clinical note by Dr. dated 05/19/10 reported a partial approval for two hours of testing for the MMPI-RF was discussed with Dr. during a peer-to-peer.

A prior review by Dr. dated 05/21/10 reported the request for psychological testing was denied secondary to what appears to be no psychological risk factors.

A letter of reconsideration by dated 06/11/10 reported the prior request for testing was denied, although two hours of psychological testing was authorized during a peer-to-peer with Dr.. The note reported that additional psychological testing was being requested in order to formulate a diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan.

A prior review by Dr. dated 06/17/10 reported the request for psychological testing was denied secondary to a lack of documentation of psychosocial risk factors, and four hours of testing being excessive administered the MMPI.

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

The request for four hours of psychological testing is not medically necessary. The clinical documentation indicates the employee is being requested for four additional hours of psychological testing to administer the MMPI-2-RF. The request has been denied two prior times secondary to a lack of psychological risk factors and the amount of hours being excessive. The request for four hours of testing is excessive in nature.

In consideration of the records and facts presented, there is insufficient supportive evidence to recommend four hours of psychological testing. As such, the medical necessity for the request for four hours of psychological testing has not been established at this time.

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

Official Disability Guidelines, Mental Illness and Stress Chapter

Psychological evaluations

Recommended. Psychological evaluations are generally accepted, well-established diagnostic procedures not only with selected use in pain problems, but also with more widespread use in subacute and chronic pain populations. Diagnostic evaluations should distinguish between conditions that are preexisting, aggravated by the current injury or work related. Psychosocial evaluations should determine if further psychosocial interventions are indicated. See "[Psychological Tests Commonly Used in the Assessment of Chronic Pain Patients](#)" from the Colorado Division of Workers' Compensation, which describes and evaluates the following 26 tests: (1) BHI - Battery for Health Improvement, (2) MBHI - Millon Behavioral Health Inventory, (3) MBMD - Millon Behavioral Medical Diagnostic, (4) PAB - Pain Assessment Battery, (5) MCMI-111 - Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory, (6) [MMPI-2](#) - Minnesota Inventory, (7) PAI - Personality Assessment Inventory, (8) BBHI 2 - Brief Battery for Health Improvement, (9) MPI - Multidimensional Pain Inventory, (10) P-3 - Pain Patient Profile, (11) Pain Presentation Inventory, (12) PRIME-MD - Primary Care Evaluation for Mental Disorders, (13) PHQ - Patient Health Questionnaire, (14) SF 36, (15) SIP - Sickness Impact Profile, (16) BSI - Brief Symptom Inventory, (17) BSI 18 - Brief Symptom Inventory, (18) SCL-90 - Symptom Checklist, (19) BDI-II - Beck Depression Inventory, (20) CES-D - Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale, (21) PDS - Post Traumatic Stress Diagnostic Scale, (22) Zung Depression Inventory, (23) MPQ - McGill Pain Questionnaire, (24) MPQ-SF - McGill Pain Questionnaire Short Form, (25) Oswestry Disability Questionnaire, (26) Visual Analogue Pain Scale – VAS. ([Bruns, 2001](#)) See also [Psychological evaluations, SCS](#) (spinal cord stimulators) & the [Chronic Pain Chapter](#).