



Southwestern Forensic
Associates, Inc.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Ten sessions of work hardening

DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:

Licensed Doctor of Chiropractic with approximately 30 years of clinical experience in chiropractic, Designated Doctor and Treating Doctor for the Texas Workers' Compensation Department of Insurance, with specialty in Sports Medicine

REVIEW OUTCOME:

"Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be (check only one):

Upheld (Agree)

Overturned (Disagree)

Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:

I reviewed approximately 112 pages of information and records provided which included but are not limited to the following:

1. Six pages 06/29/10
2. Adverse determination
3. Two pages for request for an IRO
4. Four copies of a letter 05/19/10, which was three pages of adverse determination
5. Four copies of letter 06/08/10, which consisted of three pages of adverse determination
6. Two pages of definitions from law firm, 07/05/10
7. Nine pages of copies of the ODG Guidelines
8. Two copies of a preauthorization request consisting of four pages, 05/14/10
9. Three copies of a Functional Capacity Evaluation, not dated, nine pages each
10. Three copies of DWC-73, 04/06/10
11. Three copies of family practice progress notes, one page, 04/27/10
12. Two copies of preauthorization request, two pages, 05/27/10

13. Two copies of request for reconsideration, four pages in length, form Qualcare, 05/26/10
14. Two copies of preauthorization request, three pages in length, 05/05/10
15. Request for IRO from Qualcare, four pages in length, 06/23/10

INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):

The injured worker was noted to twist his low back while coming down a ladder. He had received medical physical therapy and chiropractic care at which time a request for a Functional Capacity Evaluation was performed.

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

Part of the records included were the ODG Guidelines, which were helpful in making this determination, as well as the letter and definitions. It is noted that one of the definitions was for medically necessary versus healthcare reasonably required. However, it must be noted that reviewers also must take into consideration the 2000, which had a definition of medical necessity which we must also adhere to. At this point the judge mentioned that any care which may be reasonably considered to help a person improve or reduce pain and suffering is to be considered medically necessary. Looking at the ODG Guidelines supplied and the information supplied regarding the request for IRO would determine that the patient had not had all treatment necessary or possibly available to him in order to alleviate the problem and make improvements upon him physically.

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

(Check any of the following that were used in the course of your review.)

- 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 judgment, 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 national accepted medical literature (provide a description).
- Other evidence-based, scientifically valid, outcome-focused guidelines (provide a description.) Texas Appellate Court decision, Texarkana, 2000