

I-Resolutions Inc.

An Independent Review Organization
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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:

Jul/16/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Baclofen 10mg 1 po TID #90-90862

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

MD, Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Board Certified in Pain Management

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-TWC

4/13/10, 5/11/10

Clinics, PLLC 6/23/10 to 5/1/09

Affidavit 5/3/10

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This is a woman injured xx/xx/xx. Records state she has RSD. She has been getting relief of muscle spasms with Baclofen. Her spasms reportedly worsened when the drug was stopped. Dr. wrote on 5/24/10 that the patient's spasms and dystonia worsened when the Baclofen was stopped. The doctor cited an article in neurology. The patient has provided an affidavit dated 5/3/10 explaining how the medication helped.

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

The ODG notes that Baclofen is beneficial when given intrathecally for spasms and dystonia in RSD/CRPD. The guidelines refer to its use off-label for pain and spasms in neuropathic pain disorders including trigeminal neuralgia. RSD is a form of neuropathic pain. This patient has been getting relief of muscle spasms with Baclofen. Her spasms reportedly worsened when the drug was stopped. Dr. wrote on 5/24/10 that the patient's spasms and dystonia worsened when the Baclofen was stopped. The ODG is simply a guideline and not an inflexible proscription. The guidelines state they do not "take into account the uniqueness of

each patient's clinical circumstances.” In this case, the patient has clearly benefited from the Baclofen. The reviewer finds that medical necessity exists for Baclofen 10mg 1 po TID #90-90862.

ANTISPASTICITY DRUGS: Used to decrease spasticity in conditions such as cerebral palsy, MS, and spinal cord injuries (upper motor neuron syndromes). Associated symptoms include exaggerated reflexes, autonomic hyperreflexia, dystonia, contractures, paresis, lack of dexterity and fatigability. (Chou, 2004)

Baclofen (Lioresal®, generic available): The mechanism of action is blockade of the pre- and post-synaptic GABAB receptors. It is recommended orally for the treatment of spasticity and muscle spasm related to multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries. Baclofen has been noted to have benefits for treating lancinating, paroxysmal neuropathic pain (trigeminal neuralgia, non-FDA approved). (ICSI, 2007)

Side Effects: Sedation, dizziness, weakness, hypotension, nausea, respiratory depression and constipation. This drug should not be discontinued abruptly (withdrawal includes the risk of hallucinations and seizures). Use with caution in patients with renal and liver impairment

Dosing: Oral: 5 mg three times a day. Upward titration can be made every 3 days up to a maximum dose of 80 mg a day. (See, 2008)

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)