



INDEPENDENT REVIEW INCORPORATED

Notice of Independent Review Decision
REVIEWER'S REPORT

DATE OF REVIEW: 06/07/09

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Prescription for hydrocodone filled 05/12/10

DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:

M.D., board certified in Neurology with Added Qualifications in Pain Management, fellowship trained in Pain Medicine

REVIEW OUTCOME:

Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be:

- Upheld (Agree)
- Overturned (Disagree)
- Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

<i>Primary Diagnosis Code</i>	<i>Service Being Denied</i>	<i>Billing Modifier</i>	<i>Type of Review</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Date(s) of Service</i>	<i>Amount Billed</i>	<i>Date of Injury</i>	<i>DWC Claim #</i>	<i>Upheld Overturn</i>
724.40	Pharmacy		Retro		05/12/10	\$64.49			Overturn

INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:

- Certificate of Independence of the Review
- TDI case assignment
- Prescription profile reflecting denied prescription on 05/12/10
- Treating doctor documentation dated 08/03/09 through 02/15/10
- Occupational Medicine evaluation, 01/08/10
- Medical and chiropractic clinic documentation, 02/10/10 through 05/21/10
- Rehabilitation reports and followup notes, 03/10/09 through 01/21/10
- Functional Capacity Evaluation, 03/18/10
- Pain management evaluation, 05/06/09

INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):

This claimant sustained a work-related injury on xx/xx/xx when he was driving an xxxx . Another truck pulled in front of him, causing the claimant to brake and swerve to the left. A collision occurred where apparently the other driver died. The claimant has continued with a chronic pain condition involving his lower back and neck with some radiation into the extremities. The claimant has also undergone psychological evaluations and has been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder as well as major depressive disorder. He has undergone treatment in a chronic pain management program in addition to

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multiple medication files including muscle relaxants, analgesics such as hydrocodone, and apparently some anti-anxiety agents, as well. The claimant has continued under the care of an anesthesia/pain specialist who apparently wrote a prescription for hydrocodone that has subsequently been denied by the insurance carrier, which was filled on 05/12/10.

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

This claimant has clearly continued to suffer from chronic pain and has continued under the care of a pain specialist who obviously felt it reasonable to have this claimant continue on some treatment that included a prescription for hydrocodone. I see no evidence in the documentation provided that this claimant is no longer under the care of this physician, nor has this claimant been discharged from follow up to medical care regarding his injury, nor is there any clear documentation as to the reason why this particular prescription has been denied. I see no reasonable explanation to support this denial decision.

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

- 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.)