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An Independent Review Organization
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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:

May/19/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

97799 Initial Chronic Pain Management Program x 10 Sessions

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

MD, Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

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

Adverse Determination Letters, 3/25/10, 4/13/10

ODG-TWC

Clinic, 4/30/10, 4/5/10, 3/22/10, 4/19/09, 8/29/09, 10/24/09,
12/23/09, 1/22/10, 3/5/10

M.Ed. 3/18/10

Functional Testing, 3/11/10

Chronic Pain/Functional Restoration Programs Article (no date)

AR-CMI 5/4/10

M.D. 8/19/09, 9/2/09, 10/7/09, 11/16/09, 12/21/09,

1/27/10, 2/26/10, 4/7/10

9/16/09

Healthworks 10/8/09

Center, LLC 10/15/09

M.D. 12/18/09

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This man was working for xxxx as a xxxx for 5 years before the reported incident on xx/xx/xx. His job required heavy manual labor. He has no formal education. His date of birth is xx/xx/xx. The records indicate that injury was to the cervical, lumbar and knee. The psychological screen indicates injury was to the low back, left arm and left knee. The claimant does smoke. The injury was reported as the worker pulling a pallet when his foot

slipped. The worker uses darvocet, skelaxin, mobic and cymbalta. His pain is 8/10. He is currently capable of sedentary light work. He has not returned to work. BDI is 51 with suicidal ideation. BAI is 28.

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

Chronic pain programs (CPP) are recommended where there is access to programs with proven successful outcomes, such as decreased pain and medication use, improved function and return to work and decreased utilization of the health care system. ODG says there should be evidence that a complete diagnostic assessment has been made, with a detailed treatment plan of how to address physiologic, psychological and sociologic components that are considered components of the patient's pain. The patient should show evidence of motivation to improve and return to work and meet the other selection criteria. The predictors of failure in a CPP are poor work adjustment and satisfaction, a negative outlook about future employment, high levels of pretreatment depression, pain and disability, increased duration of pre-referral disability time, higher levels of opioid use and elevated pre-treatment levels of pain and cigarette smoking. This worker does have multiple predictors of failure in a CPP and these have not been addressed in the initial screen to determine how they will be addressed. The patient does not meet the selection criteria at this time. For this reason, the reviewer finds that medical necessity does not exist at this time for 97799 Initial Chronic Pain Management Program x 10 Sessions.

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)