

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON
May/15/2010

P-IRO Inc.

An Independent Review Organization
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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:

May/05/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Bilateral Sacroiliac Joint Injection

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

Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Subspecialty Board Certified in Pain Management
Subspecialty Board Certified in Electrodiagnostic Medicine
Residency Training PMR and ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

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

OD Guidelines
Denial Letters 4/13/10 and 4/21/10
Back 2/1/10 thru 4/6/10
MRI 1/9/10

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This is a lady who developed coccydynia upon getting a juice can in 12/09. She apparently was originally injured in xx/xxxx and improved with SI injections in 2003 (?-). The date may be in error. Her MRI in 1/9/10 described a disc bulge at L4/5. There is coccydynia and blue toes from an unexplained reason. There is the request for SI injection. Her exam showed positive Patrick, Gaenslen and Yeoman tests bilaterally and bilateral SI tenderness. Her neurological exam is normal.

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

There is a dichotomy of thought here. The ODG requires 4-6 weeks of aggressive therapy, but the approval was for 6 sessions. Further, the ODG cites the report in Spine by Chou limiting the indications for SI injection. The ODG further requires 3 positive signs for the consideration of SI injection. This person had the two, Patrick and Gaenslen. The Yeoman is not a listed sign for SI pain in the ODG, but it is a reverse SLR in the prone position stressing the SI joint. It would therefore appear she has 3 positive signs. Although the ODG questions the SI blocks, The IRO reviewers' medical assessment is that the injections are medically necessary under the circumstance.

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)