



Southwestern Forensic
Associates, Inc.

REVIEWER'S REPORT

DATE OF REVIEW: 12/03/11

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Repeat cervical MRI scan with and without contrast material

DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:

M.D., board certified orthopedic surgeon with extensive experience in the evaluation and treatment of patients suffering cervical spine problems

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:

1. SWF forms
2. TDI referral forms
3. Denial letters, 10/25/11 and 11/02/11
4. Requestor records
5. Clinical notes, M.D., fourteen entries between 05/09/09 and 11/02/11
6. Fax cover sheets, 10/20/11, 10/27/11, 10/25/11, and 11/16/11
7. URA records
8. Perspective Review, 11/14/11
9. evaluations, 10/20/11, 08/26/11, 10/27/11
10. Discharge summary, 03/19/96 through 03/20/96, Medical Center
11. MRI scan, cervical spine, 11/17/09
12. D.O., medical record review, 12/07/10
13. M.D., pain management, eight records between 04/07/10 and 05/04/11
14. Operative note, cervical epidural steroid injection, 09/08/10

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INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):

The patient is a female who suffered straining injury to her cervical spine when lifting a heavy table on xx/xx/xx. She was evaluated and felt to be suffering herniated nucleus pulposus with myelopathy at two cervical levels, C6/C7 on the left and C5/C6. On 03/19/96 anterior discectomy at C5/C6 and C6/C7 with interbody fusion and decompression of bilateral C6 nerve root and bilateral C7 nerve roots were accomplished. She had reasonable relief. However, she has had persistent pain and intermittently has had severe pain. She was recently re-evaluated and referred for chronic pain management. She underwent epidural steroid injections on at least two occasions under the auspices of M.D. There is indication in the medical records that an MRI scan of the cervical spine may have been obtained between 01/26/11 and 04/20/11. The patient was recently re-evaluated by Dr. and felt to be suffering further cervical spine pain. A repeat MRI scan with and without contrast was requested as a preoperative study. This request was considered and denied; it was reconsidered and denied.

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

There is no complete physical examination neurologic evaluation that would indicate that physical findings have changed. The patient’s principal problem is one of cervical spine pain. There is an indication in the medical records in notes from Dr. that an MRI scan was obtained sometime between 01/26/11 and 08/20/11. The report of that MRI scan is not present in the record, and a complete evaluation of the results of that scan is not included. It would appear at this time that the prior denials of a request to repeat the MRI scan yet once again was appropriate and should be upheld.

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.)