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Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: 12-2-2011

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

The item in dispute is the concurrent medical necessity of 10 wound care visits between 11-10-2011 and 1-9-2011.

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

The reviewer is a Medical Doctor who is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery. This reviewer has been practicing for greater than 10 years.

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)

The reviewer agrees with the previous adverse determination regarding the 10 wound care visits between 11-10-2011 and 1-9-2011.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

Records were received and reviewed from the following parties: utilization review unit and MD.

These records consist of the following:

MDR paperwork including utilization reviews 11-8-2011, 11-15-2011
MD records 9-19-2011, 9-28-2011, 10-3-2011, 10-18-2011, 11-2-2011, 11-16-2011
Laboratory report 9-22-2011, 9-20-2011, 9-19-2011
Operative report 9-20-2011
Radiology report 9-22-2011
report 11-8-2011
Request for treatment authorization form
Medical Center report 11-4-2011
Outpatient referral form 11-2-2011
Hospital Patient Care reports 11-4-2011
Orthopedic Associates report 11-9-2011
Picture 11-10-2011
Network PCI report 11-10-2011
Reports 11-8-2011, 11-15-2011

A copy of the ODG was provided by the Carrier/URA for this review.

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The patient is a male diabetic whom slipped and fell down stairs. The patient underwent a debridement and ORIF procedure (on 9/19/11) following the (open) bi-malleolar/syndesmosis ankle fracture. A syndesmotic screw had been removed on 11/2/11. Also, a full thickness eschar had been removed, down to the fascia. (The patient was beginning to be weight-bearing as tolerated with the use of a boot and crutches). Exam findings included a decrease in strength and motion at the left ankle. There was a minimal amount of serous drainage noted. The attending physician's report notes the patient presented with an open wound with 80% adherent slough. The wound edges were dry. There was a minimal amount of serous drainage noted. Superficial sharp debridement was noted to have been performed. Prior partial certification of 2 wound care visits was noted.

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

Recommend denial of requested service. Without evidence of infection (no cellulitis, induration fluctuance or purulence) and with dry wound edges, the ongoing medical necessity for additional wound care visits (after the initial 2 visits) has not been documented per applicable ODG criteria. The open area was not documented to be a "chronic wound" in the sense discussed in ODG (which relates to long-standing clinical tissue-issues warranting other than relatively routine post-op wound care, such as in the records provided).

A DESCRIPTION AND THE SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE THE 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 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)